Grapes of Wrath

Questions

Chapters 12-18: The Migration

1. What is the first unpleasant event that occurs o the Joads’ journey? What does that event portend about what lies ahead?
2. What happens to solidify the family as they drive along? Of what significance is Grampa Joad’s death? How does Gramma take it? What is Ma’s philosophy of “holdin’ on”? What is the value of Casy’s prayer?
3. What is the function of Chapter 15? What does it imply about businessmen, waitresses, and truck drivers?
4. When the car breaks down, what is significant about Ma’s reaction? How does the mechanical difficulty affect the relationship between Tom and Al?
5. How does the one-yed man in the junkyard feel about the owner of the yard? What advice does Tom give him?
6. In the camping area, what information does the ragged man give to Pa about California? What effect does that information have on the Joads?
7. What effect does the nightly camping have on the people heading for California? How does it give them strength and power?
8. What is the Joads’ first view of California? What impressions of California do the two men from the Panhandle provide? Why does Noah leave? What is Ma’s response?
9. Why are the migrants called Oakies? What do the two boys in the service station in Needles say about Oakies?
10. Of what symbolic value is the desert? Does California look the way the characters thought it would? What do we learn about Gramma? What do Ma’s reactions again show about her?