Grapes of Wrath

Questions

Chapters 19-22: The Promised Land

1. How has farming changed according to Chapter 19? Why do the local people fear the migrants? What is a Hooverville? How do you suppose a Hooverville got its name? What was the “three great facts of history”, and what do they imply about the outcome of the events in this novel?
2. Why is it so difficult to obtain work in California? Why do wages fall? What keeps the men from uniting? What advice does Floyd Knowles give? How is Rose of Sharon affected by all of this?
3. How do the police treat the migrants? Why? What does Cay’s attack on the deputy reveal about him? Why is Uncle John so upset? What causes Connie to leave?
4. What does Ma Joad mean when she says “Why, we’re the people – we go on”?
5. In what ways does the hostility of the local people change the migrants? How are the government camps different from the Hoovervilles? What is effective about the way they are run?
6. How does Mr. Thomas (Chapter 22) treat the workers? How does Tome feel about working? In what ways does Mr. Thomas represent the dilemma of the small farmer?
7. How do the Joads, especially the children, show their ignorance of “modern” conveniences?
8. What do the events in Chapter 22 say about charity, religion, and hard work? What and who are “reds”?