

## Finding the Links

Of the 30 chapters of *The Grapes of Wrath*, 16 are considered "intercalary"; i.e., they do not deal with the story of the Joads specifically, but they provide a broader social and historic background for the story. Beginning with chapter 1, which establishes themes and sets the mood and setting for the story, the novel's plot is interrupted by the odd-numbered chapters, except midway through the novel, when they occur at chapters 11, 12, 14, and 15. While early critics believed these chapters were mere distractions, more recent critics discovered important links between the chapters.

In preceding handouts, you explored the color and sound imagery that connected chapters 1 and 2, as well as the physical similarities between the turtle and Jim Casy. In chapter 5, Steinbeck fuses these three into the image of the "monster," his word for the Bank/Company or tractors which drive the farmers from their land.

1. List words or phrases from the novel which describe the following:

a) Bank/Company

b) Owners

c) Tractors

d) Man driving tractor

2. What seems to be the connecting link between the Bank, the owners, the tractors, and the driver?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

3. What motivates Joe Davis's son to perform such an unpopular task?
4. In the last paragraph of chapter 5, when the tractor crumbles the tenant's house, what four words describe its final fall?
5. Where have we seen this image before?