

## The Land at War

1. In the first paragraph, Steinbeck describes the earth as "scarred," the ears of corn as "green bayonets," the weeds trying to "protect themselves." What other phrases describing the wind, sun, or dust indicate that the land is at war with harsh natural events?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. a) Steinbeck uses colors in this chapter to paint a picture of Oklahoma during the drought of the 1930's. What colors does he choose?  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
b) What does his progression of color (e.g., from red to pink) tell us about what is happening to the land?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Chapter 1 is filled with the sounds of nature. What descriptions of sound can you find in the chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In the last paragraph of chapter 1, Steinbeck writes, "The women studied the men's faces secretly, for the corn could go, as long as something else remained." What do you think this "something else" is?

5. How can the women and children feel safe when the men do not know what to do?

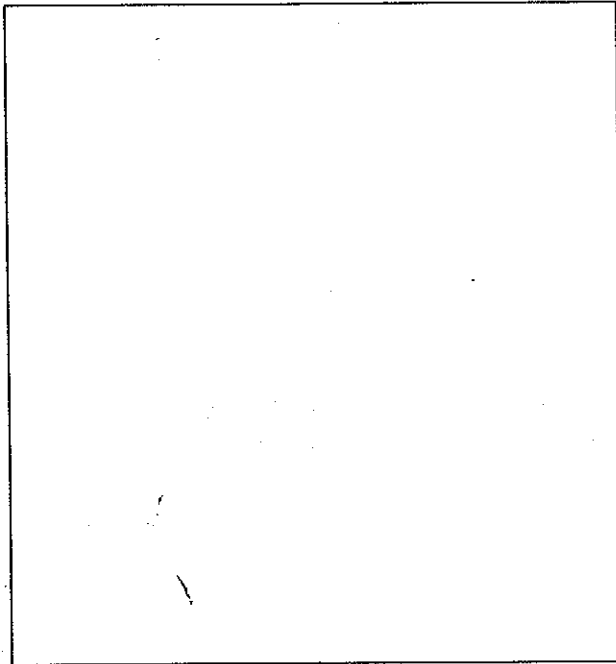
How do they know "that there was no break"?

## The Story Begins

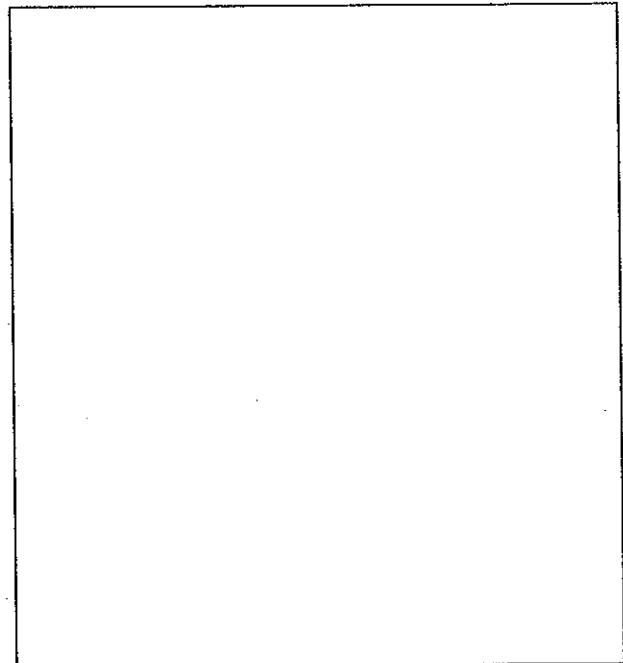
1. a) The colors red and gray, which dominate chapter 1, play an important part in chapter 2 as well. The red sun is the "victor" in the natural world's war in chapter 1. What is colored red in chapter 2?  
  
b) The land "lost the war" to wind and sun in the first chapter, ending up a pale gray. What is colored gray in Steinbeck's second chapter?
2. The sounds of chapter 1 are of nature. In this chapter, where does the "music" come from?
3. Some of Tom Joad's first lines tell us a great deal about him. What do we learn of Tom from these lines?
  - a) "Sure—I see [the No Riders sticker]. But sometimes a guy'll be a good guy even if some rich bastard makes him carry a sticker."
  - b) "Well, I ain't heard [from my folks] lately. I never was no hand to write, nor my old man neither." He added quickly, "But the both of us can, if we want."
  - c) "I don't mean nothin' neither," said Joad. "I'm just trying to get along without shovin' nobody around."

4. Throughout the novel, Steinbeck will tell of people, machines, and animals. Chapter 2 (like most) contains examples of all three: the red truck; the driver, Tom, and the waitress; and numerous examples of insect/animal life. List first the animal/insect life you find in this chapter, and in Column Two list the things which are compared to or called by animal names:

I



II



5. What does Tom do to the grasshopper?

Note: As you read this novel, note the way people treat the animals they encounter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Tale of the Turtle

1. In chapter 3, a diversion from the Joad story, we again have the people/machine/animal triad. The turtle, carrying his house on his back, gets to the other side slowly but surely, but the two drivers react to the animal very differently. Explain.
2. Having read chapter 3 very carefully, list the adjectives you would use to describe this turtle in its journey to the other side of the road.
3. If a symbol is an action or thing that points beyond its concrete, literal meaning, what might the turtle symbolize?
4. List the words or phrases which describe the turtle and Jim Casy:

Turtle	Jim Casy

5. In the middle of chapter 4, Casy describes himself as being like the turtle, always going "off somewheres." In what ways do the turtle and the preacher resemble each other physically?