

Name _____



Broken Dreams

The Joad family had always dreamed of a better life. Back in Oklahoma, they had worked hard on their farm, believing that if they put in enough effort, they could build a future for themselves. But then the rains stopped. The land turned to dust, and crops refused to grow. Soon, the Joads, like many other families, could no longer afford to stay. They had heard stories about California—a

place where farms stretched for miles, and jobs were easy to find. It sounded like the perfect chance to rebuild their dreams.

With hope in their hearts, the Joads packed their belongings into an old truck and set off on the long journey west. Along the way, they met other families who were also searching for a better life. Some had lost everything, while others still clung to the belief that California would offer them a fresh start.

But when the Joads finally reached California, they realized the American Dream was not as simple as they had imagined. Instead of easy jobs and open land, they found crowded camps full of struggling families just like theirs. The farm owners paid workers very little, knowing that desperate people would take any job, no matter how unfair. Some families had no choice but to live in small, dirty shelters, working long hours just to buy food. Still, the Joads did not give up. They learned that the American Dream was not just about owning land or having money. It was about sticking together, helping others, and finding strength even in the hardest times. Ma Joad reminded her family, "We keep going. As long as we have each other, we're not broken."

Through their struggles, the Joads showed that the American Dream was not always about reaching a perfect life, but about the fight to survive, the kindness of people, and the hope that things could one day be better.

