

Name _____



Helping Hands

In *The Grapes of Wrath*, the Joad family faces many hardships as they travel to California in search of a better life. Even though they experience hunger, loss, and unfair treatment, acts of kindness and generosity help them continue their journey. These moments show the importance of compassion and how people can support each other in difficult times.

One example of kindness happens early in the journey when the Joads stop at a gas station. The owner notices that the family does not have much money, so he quietly gives them a little extra food. He knows they are struggling, but he helps them anyway. This small act of generosity allows the Joads to keep moving forward.

Later in the novel, the Joads meet another struggling family at a work camp. Even though the Joads have very little, Ma Joad shares their food with them. She believes that when people help each other, they all become stronger. Her kindness reflects an important theme in the book: survival is not just about having food and money, but also about supporting one another.

One of the most powerful acts of kindness happens at the end of the novel. Rose of Sharon, who has just lost her baby, finds a man who is starving to death. Even though she is grieving, she chooses to help him. In an extraordinary act of generosity, she shares the milk from her body with the man, saving his life. This moment shows that even in times of deep sorrow, people can still show love and kindness.

Throughout *The Grapes of Wrath*, Steinbeck shows that acts of kindness are just as important as physical survival. The Joads' journey is filled with unfairness and cruelty, but kindness from both strangers and family members helps them endure. These moments remind us that in times of hardship, generosity can give people hope and strength.