

Name _____



Timeless Struggles

John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* was written in 1939, but its story still matters today. The novel follows the Joad family as they leave their home in Oklahoma and travel to California in search of a better life. Along the way, they face poverty, unfair wages, and mistreatment by large farm owners. While this story takes place during the Great Depression, many of its themes remain relevant in today's world.

One major theme of the novel is economic hardship. In *The Grapes of Wrath*, the Joad family loses their farm because they cannot pay their debts. Today, many families also struggle with money and may lose their homes due to high costs and job loss. Just like the Joads, modern families often move to new places hoping to find better opportunities, but they may face similar challenges.

Another theme that connects to today's world is unfair treatment of workers. In the novel, farm owners take advantage of migrant workers by paying them very little. Some businesses today still pay workers unfair wages, especially those in low-paying jobs. Many workers around the world struggle to earn enough money to support their families, just like the Joads did.

The novel also explores the importance of kindness and community. The Joads receive help from strangers, and they also share what little they have with others. In today's world, people still rely on community support when they face hardships. Food banks, shelters, and charities help families in need, just as kind strangers helped the Joads.

Finally, *The Grapes of Wrath* reminds us that people can stay strong even in hard times. Ma Joad's famous words, "We keep a-goin'," show that determination and hope are important for survival. Today, many families work hard to overcome difficulties, just like the Joads did.

Even though *The Grapes of Wrath* was written many years ago, its themes still connect to real-life struggles. The novel teaches us that economic hardship, unfair wages, and the power of kindness are issues that continue to affect people today. By reading this story, we can learn important lessons about resilience, fairness, and helping others.

