

The Grapes of Wrath

John Steinbeck

- 1
- 1 The dust was killing the corn.
 - 2 The dust and the lack of rain.
 - 3 Oklahoma.
 - 4 No one was living on the farm. One corner of the farmhouse had been crushed in. The fences had gone and the wooden barn lay on its side.
 - 5 Because he had killed a man. The man had got out a knife and Tom had hit him over the head with a shovel.
 - 6 He had been in jail for four years.
 - 7
 - a Tom Joad's.
 - b The Joad farm.
 - c Because the tractors were coming to destroy the farm.
- 2
- 1 They said the Bank owned the land.
 - 2 They said they and their families owned the land. They owned it because they were born on it, they worked it, and they died on it.
 - 3 Cotton.
 - 4 Men on tractors. One man on a tractor could take the place of twelve or fourteen families.
 - 5 California.
- 3
- 1 He saw a pile of furniture – beds, chairs, tables.
 - 2 Because he thought he might have broken out of jail.
 - 3 She was making breakfast.
 - 4 His brothers were Al, who was 16, and Winfield, who was 10. His sisters were Rose of Sharon, whose age we do not know, and Ruthie, who was 12. (The ages are given in the family tree at the beginning of the book.)
 - 5 That she was married to a man called Connie, and she would be having a baby in four months' time.
 - 6 Ruthie and Winfield.
 - 7 Nearly two thousand miles.
- 4
- 1 Because it was a family meeting and he was not one of the family.
 - 2 One hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$154).
 - 3
 - a Ma replied, 'It ain't "can we?", but "will we?". I say we will. The Joad family doesn't refuse food or a ride to anybody that asks.'
 - b Eleven people were going on the truck.
 - 4 She put them into an envelope and put it in her pocket.
 - 5 Grampa. Although he was taken by the family on the truck, he died before they left the state of Oklahoma – so in fact he never left his country.
 - 6 Al drove the truck when they set off.
- 5
- 1 When the truck turned onto the concrete road, it travelled at thirty-five miles an hour. Al did not drive faster because the truck was overloaded.
 - 2 Ma replied, 'I heard it's all hills. Mountains too. Big ones.'
 - 3 Highway 66.
 - 4 They were the tenant farmers. They were fleeing from the dust, tractors, wind and floods.
 - 5 Because Tom was on parole, and it would be a crime to cross a state line. He could be taken back to jail.
 - 6 He said that if he didn't do anything wrong, nobody would care.
 - 7 They met a man and a woman with an old car and a tent. The woman was called Sairy.

- 6
- 1 Sairy replied, 'Everybody says words different. But we're all the same folks.'
 - 2 Because the Wilsons let the Joads put Grampa in their tent when he became sick. He died there.
 - 3 Because it would have cost forty dollars to bury him, and they only had one hundred and fifty dollars between them.
 - 4 They put in a bottle containing a piece of paper with some writing. It said who Grampa was and why he was buried there.
 - 5 Because she thought the sorrow might hurt her baby.
 - 6 Because their car would not run. It started and stopped, and it was getting worse all the time.
 - 7
 - a It mentioned work for Pea Pickers.
 - b Yes, the handbill said they were.
 - c 800 pickers were wanted.
 - d Yes, he had.
 - e Because he thought they might have their 800 pickers already.
 - f He said the handbill was about one little part of California and California was the second biggest state in the country.
- 7
- 1 He was planning to get a job in a store or a factory. He hoped to study about radios and get his own store.
 - 2 Ma asked the question. The answer was: 'Only the family.'
 - 3 They went into the town to get a con-rod.
 - 4
 - a He had stayed there for a year.
 - b They had died.
 - c He said that the landowner who wanted eight hundred men would print five thousand handbills, so twenty thousand people would see them. When people went to him for work he said he would only pay twenty cents an hour. The migrants were so poor and hungry that many would work for that. The man said, 'The more fellas he can get, and the hungrier they are, the less he's got to pay.'
 - d He said he was going home to starve. He said he'd rather starve at home than anywhere else.
 - 5 Because they would have had to pay half a dollar.
- 8
- 1 He said that the people in California hated the migrants and would not let them have any land to plant.
 - 2 'Okie' meant someone from Oklahoma. But the people in California now used the word to mean someone who was no good.
 - 3 He was a policeman. He told Ma that the family had to move on. He said if they were there the next day he would take them to jail.
 - 4 Mr Wilson said that Sairy was sick and had to rest before they crossed the desert.
 - 5 Because they did not have much money left and they did not want to go to jail.
- 9
- 1 She was afraid they would not get across the desert if they stopped.
 - 2 'They' are Grampa and Granma. 'It' is California.
 - 3 About thirty dollars.
- 10
- 1 Because they were soft and the Okies were strong. They thought Okies would take their land.
 - 2 Because they had no money to spend.
 - 3 Land and food.
 - 4 They were afraid that the Okies might find a leader, because then they would fight back.

- 11**
- 1 He was angry because he had no work and no money. He wished he'd stayed at home and become a tractor driver.
 - 2 It was a government camp. It was by Weedpatch.
 - 3 No. They could work to stay there if they had no money.
 - 4 He said that he wanted to see the contractor's licence to hire men. He wanted to know what the pay would be and how many men the contractor needed. He also said that although the contractor only really needed a thousand men, he would get five thousand instead and only pay fifteen cents an hour.
 - 5 He meant that he was talking like a communist and being a troublemaker.
 - 6 In Tulare County.
 - 7 They were going to set fire to it.
 - 8 Floyd had hit the deputy, and turned to run. Tom then tripped the deputy and threw his gun away. Tom was in danger because he was on parole – he would be sent back to prison if he was caught.
 - 9 Casy.
- 12**
- 1 He had gone away.
 - 2 Because Rose of Sharon was going to have a baby, and it would be half Connie.
 - 3 It was light from the camp – the camp was on fire.
 - 4 He was going south to look for the government camp.
- 13**
- 1 That Ma would be treated nicely. He said, 'She ain't been treated nicely for a long time.'
 - 2 He liked the migrants.
 - 3 He said that some men were going to make trouble at the next dance. Then the deputies would go in and break up the camp.
 - 4 He wanted to work in a garage.
 - 5 Pa replied, 'If we could get work.'
- 14**
- 1 They were going to start a fight. Then the deputies could come in and break up the camp.
 - 2 The people in the camp surrounded the troublemakers and held them firmly. The deputies could only come into the camp without a warrant if there was trouble. The guard at the gate said there wasn't any trouble, so the deputies had to go away.
 - 3 They were migrants.
- 15**
- 1 Because they did not have any work, food or money.
 - 2 Women.
 - 3 Her gold earrings.
 - 4 Because Winfield was not strong, and Ma had heard that it rained a lot in California during the winter. She had to keep Winfield dry so he would not get sick.
 - 5 They found work picking peaches.
 - 6 Five cents a box, when they started.
 - 7 There was a line of men in the ditch. They were yelling and shaking their fists.
 - 8 Because the company that owned the land also owned the store. They knew that if the migrants had to go to town for their food they would use up their gasoline. So they could charge high prices at the camp store.
 - 9 He gave her ten cents so she could buy some sugar.

- 16**
- 1 Because the company had reduced the pay to two and a half cents when the men had started work. That was not enough. They could not eat for that.
 - 2 That the people who were working were starving those who were striking. And soon they would be starving themselves.
 - 3 A man had attacked Casy and killed him. Tom then grabbed a pick-handle and hit the man on the head. Tom thought he had killed him, so he hid in the house in the camp.
 - 4 Because she did not want the family to break up. She wanted help as Rose of Sharon would soon have her baby.
 - 5 Yes, he was.
- 17**
- 1 Because the family didn't have much money that day and they couldn't afford to have all the food they wanted.
 - 2 Al said, 'You mean that hitch-hiker? He went off this morning when the rate dropped.' In fact, the other man had been Tom. Now he was hiding under the mattresses on the back of the truck.
 - 3 The sign said: 'COTTON PICKERS WANTED'.
 - 4 They went back to the boxcars and all except Tom slept in the truck.
 - 5 Because he had to hide until his face was better – he did not want anyone to see him yet.
- 18**
- 1 They made their new home in one of the boxcars. They shared it with another family, the Wainwrights.
 - 2 Because Ruthie had told some other people what Tom had done and that he was in hiding.
 - 3 He said he was going to do what Casy had done: he was going to try to get the migrants to work together. Then, one day, they would have their own land.
 - 4 She gave him some money – seven dollars.
 - 5 She met a man who owned twenty acres of cotton. He told her he was looking for pickers.
 - 6 He planned to marry Aggie Wainwright. He wanted to move away, get a job in a garage and rent a house.
 - 7 She walked out of the boxcar and crawled into the bushes by the stream. She stretched out on her back and she felt the weight of the baby inside her.
- 19**
- 1 He got them to dig and build up the bank of the stream.
 - 2 That it was time for Rose of Sharon to have her baby.
 - 3 Because their wheels were sinking deeper into the mud.
 - 4 Mrs Wainwright.
 - 5 It died. It was dead when it was born.
 - 6 Now they cared for anybody, not just the family. Ma said, 'The worse things get, the more we've got to do for each other.'
- 20**
- 1 They built a platform on the floor of the boxcar. The top was four feet above the floor. Then they moved everything up onto the platform.
 - 2 They took them to a barn on a small hill.
 - 3 A man and a boy. They were father and son.
 - 4 The man in the barn was starving. Rose of Sharon fed him with milk from her breast.