

IB Literature HL1

Summer Reading: *The Grapes of Wrath*

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Read John Steinbeck's novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and respond to two of the following prompts. Cite evidence from the text in support of your reasoning. This assignment is an opportunity to explore ideas informally and to plan for IB assessments in the coming years. Responses should be 500-600 words apiece. All work must be original. You will submit your work digitally during the first week of class.

Identity:

In what ways does the novel explore the impacts of social class on personal identity? Which literary or structural techniques best highlight this theme for the reader? Cite evidence from the text in your response.

Culture:

In what ways does the book critique consumer culture in the United States during the early 20th century? Analyze the ways that literary or structural techniques highlight this criticism and support your ideas with textual evidence.

Creativity:

In what ways does Steinbeck represent the larger, deterministic forces that shape the characters' lives? Which literary or structural techniques does Steinbeck rely on and what are the effects of these creative choices on the reader? Cite examples from the text in your response.

Communication:

Choose three crucial moments where characters' economic situations create or break down barriers to understanding one another. Support your insights with textual evidence.

Transformation:

Choose a main character from the novel. Which 2-3 experiences in that character's life were most transformative? Support your reasoning with evidence from the text.

Perspective:

Choose two moments where the Joad family's perspective of their prospects in California shifts for better or worse. Your response can apply to multiple characters. What causes these shifts in perspective? Support your response with evidence from the text.

Representation:

Analyze 2-3 instances where Steinbeck's representation of the Joad family's plight attempts to evoke sympathy in the reader. Which literary or structural techniques does Steinbeck rely on in these moments? Cite textual evidence in your response.