

Grapes of wrath argumentative essay



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Steinbeck tells the story of how the American settlers originally moved west and took California away from Mexico. Steinbeck talks of how they leveled that because they farmed the land, they owned it. This is the exact same feeling felt by the Goads and other farmers who were driven off the land that they had farmed for generations. "Once California belonged to Mexico and its land to Mexicans; and a horde of tattered and feverish Americans poured in.

And such was their hunger for land that they took the landnotes Stutter's land, Guesser's land, took the grants and broke them up and growled and quarreled over them, those frantic hungry men; and they guarded with guns the land they had stolen. They put up houses and barns, they turned the earth and planted crops. And these things were possession, and possession was ownership." Page 297 Steinbeck uses this chapter as a way to show the cycle of men and how time goes on. Steinbeck continues and says how those Americans' descendants became the rich landholders that now stop the "Skies".

They do this because they know the way men work.

They know that once a man fails somewhere, he moves on to somewhere else so that he can feed his family; no matter the cost. However, the cycle must continue and so the "Skies" will continue to keep trying until they die. And every time they try, from looking for work or starting secret gardens, the land owners are there trying to stop them. In the beginning of chapter 20, the family mourns Grammar and talks of what she wanted for her

funeral. Ma especially is upset: “ I know,’ Ma said. ‘ I jus’ can’t GE t it out my head what store she set by a nice funeral.

Got to forget it. ” page 310 Grandma’s death however, does not distract the family from the pressing matt ere of finding work though. The family continues and eventually finds their way into a Hoover-vile (cities or groups Of families living in shacks that were named after president H Robert Hoover to symbolism the fact that no one was helping the common man.), and spend the e night.

AY and a young man named Floyd become friends when AY helps him fix his car. They f arm a temporary alliance in which later on Floyd tells AY and Tom of a government c amp. Additionally, Cays thinks of leaving the camp: “ Cays sighed. ‘ I anti doing’ nobody y no good,’ he said. Me or nobody else. I was thinking’ I’d go off alone by myself.

” This quote shows that Cays wants to feel needed, but cannot find a purpose a ND so feels like a burden. Connie also leaves the family. And once Floyd runs away a ND Cays takes Tom’s place in prison, there is one main theme of the chapter. This chapter is used by Steinbeck to show that nothing was permanent at the time of the Great Deep session. Nothing could last, not friendships, not work, and not even marriage in Sconce’s case. At the end of the chapter, the ideas expressed in Chapter 19 are shown in cacti on as the family is forced to turn back by armed men.

And as Tom is infuriated, Ma holds him back eying that times are different. “ Don’ you fret none, Tom. A different time’s co min’ . ” Page 360 The 21st chapter again takes a part from the previous chapter just like the 20th h

chapter from the 19th chapter. The 21st chapter talks about the local people forming bands of people, gangs, to force the Skies out of their area, even though they own none of the land themselves. The people were scared of losing their jobs and angry that the Mexicans were coming for work that currently theirs.

It also tells of how the large landholders were weeding out their competition:

“ A great owner bought a cannery.

And when the peach season and the pears were ripe he cut the price of fruit below the cost of raising it. And as the cannery owner he paid himself a low price for the fruit and kept the price of canned goods up and took his profit. And the little farmers who owned no canneries lost their farms, and they were taken by the great owners, the banks, and the companies who also owned the canneries. As time went on, there were fewer farms.

The little farmers moved into town for a while and exhausted their credit, exhausted their friends their relatives. And then they too went on the highways. This shows the masterful cunning and shrewdness that the large landowners used to stay at the top. In chapter 22, the Goad family begin to see hope. They find the camp that Floyd told them about late at night and get the last open spot.

They are told about the camp by the watchman, and they are overjoyed. They get to their spot and register and then go to sleep. In the morning, Tom wakes up early to find work and get associated with the camp. This shows how determined Tom is to get his family through this and how

hardworking he is. It also shows that the camp has everything he wants, a place to work and help his family, and fair laws.

It also displays him as the leader and head of the family as he is the only man able to find work or be proactive.

“ It was still dark when he awakened. A small clashing noise brought him up from sleep. Tom listened and heard again the squeak of iron on iron. He moved silently and shivered in the morning air.

The camp still slept. Tom stood up and looked over the side of the truck. The eastern mountains rimmed with a washed red, then growing colder grayer, darker, as it went up overhead until at a place near the western horizon it merged with pure night.

Down in the valley the East was the lavender of dawn. ” However, Tom later discovers that the banks are again forcing wages to be 10 cents which again shows that nothing is permanent in this time.

In contrast to this, Ma Goad finds that civilization lives here as Everett is orderly like when the man tells her she is in the wrong bathroom and when she tries to get everyone clean for the Ladies committee. In addition, it surprises and arouses suspicion between Ma and Pa when the camp manager visits Ma to be nice because they have forgotten what it is like for people to do that.

In addition, the warm water and the Ladies committee make Ma feel at peace again and how everyone looks out for her. Chapter 23 is tied into the crazy Mrs..

Sandra's rant of how Rosary must stop the dancing and singing or her baby will be stillborn. It talks of how the migrants try to distract themselves from their sufferings with music, alcohol, and stories. It is exactly what Mrs..

Sandra told Rosary not to do. However, these ways and sermons given by preachers are the only ways the members of the camp can find escape and/or salvation.