

Reviewer username: Anonymous

School: El Dorado High School

Grade: Junior

Book Title: The Grapes of Wrath

Book Author: John Steinbeck

Rate 1-5: 3

The novel begins with Tom Joad exiting prison on parole and reuniting with his family. Later, forced off their farm during the Depression-era Oklahoma Dust Bowl, they must adventure out to California along with thousands of others in hopes of finding sustainable work, a home, and a brighter future. However, the journey over there will not be as easy as anticipated. Gas prices, work wages, and death are all pieces that change the course of their trip greatly on their road to California. Will they survive and find a better life in California?

Overall, this novel was fascinating because of the author's rhetoric. The style of the book was full of descriptive language and details of every person, situation, and event. My dislike of the book was the slow movement of the storyline. The novel was already very long and the story moved on slowly and was repetitive. My favorite character from the novel is Ma Joad because of her positive actions, wisdom, and leadership. Even when everyone was down, Ma still took care of the entire family and would never let the family split up. Even after a long day of work, she would cook for the family and manage their minimal spending. Something that surprised me while reading was the author's choice of intercalary chapters which shifts from the main storyline to a general economics lens every other chapter.

This book would not be my first choice to recommend because of its long length and nothing super special about the book. Although it was very descriptive, I found it very boring at times and would also only recommend it to older kids due to the bad language.