“The Grapes of Wrath” by John Steinbeck illustrates the harshness of the Depression. This novel was made into a movie.

**Historical Setting**

The crash of 1929 brought the "Roaring Twenties" to an end. Spurred by an economic boom, a bull market, and a desire for wealth, Americans had purchased stocks on margin. Stock prices had risen to dizzying figures and experts foretold disaster.

The Depression proved democratic - few were spared. Those at every socioeconomic level were shattered. People lost their jobs, their homes, and worst, their hopes. For those who had little before the crash, life proved devastating. Technology also proved an enemy - causing thousands to lose jobs. In a merciless display of timing, it was during the Depression that the Dust Bowl dried up and blew away. Throwing the farmers to the wind.

As you view the movie write out the answers to the following questions on a separate paper.

1. What is the main character, Tom, looking for? Where has he been?
2. Why do you suppose the preacher lost the "spirit"?
3. What factors caused Muley to be so depressed (be "touched") and go crazy?
4. Why is land so important to these people?
5. How would you feel if the Caterpillar demolished your house?
6. According to the flyer, how many jobs are available in California?
7. Why do you think the older woman is burning some papers?
8. How did they finally get Grandpa on the truck when he didn’t want to go?
9. Grandpa died of a stroke, but what do you think really killed him?
10. Who does the Preacher say is better off, the dead or the living? Why?
11. In the camp at night what warning does the stranger give the Joad family?
12. Why did Mr. Joad insist on paying for the loaf of bread, even after the cook says to GIVE it to him for free?
13. According to the road signs what highway is the Joad family taking to California?
14. What is the attitude or prejudice of the gas station attendants towards the Joad family?
15. Why do the government inspectors at the California state line not search the truck for seeds and plants?
16. The young boys in the camp lied about what they had eaten. What did they really eat? Why do you think they lied.
17. Why do you think the local authorities wanted to burn down the transient camp that night?
18. When the Joad family came to the road block, what news did they get?
19. When Tom sneaks out at night, he learns that the men were striking. What was the reason for their strike?
20. What happens under the bridge at night when the strikers are attacked by the police.
21. Why is Tom Joad in trouble and hiding in bed?
22. How is the new government camp different from the transient labor camp.
23. How do the government camp leaders stop the agitators and police from causing trouble at the dance?
24. Before he leaves, what is the message in Tommy's speech to his mother?
25. Explain why this movie about the Depression is better in black and white, greys and shadows, than it would be in color.