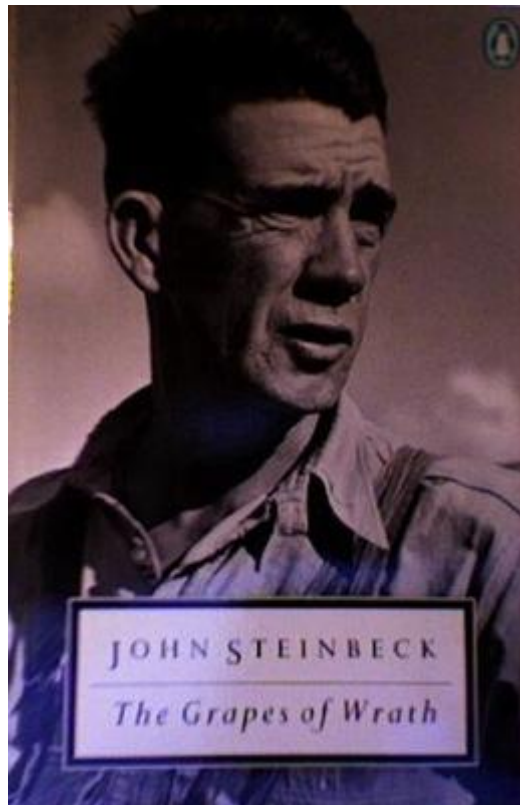


The Grapes Of Wrath



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The Grapes of Wrath is a novel published in 1939 and written by John Steinbeck, who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1940 and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. Set during the Great Depression, the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* focuses on the Joads, a poor family of sharecroppers driven from their Oklahoma home by drought, economic hardship, and changes in financial and agricultural industries. Due to their nearly hopeless situation, and in part because they were trapped in the Dust Bowl, the Joads set out for California. Along with thousands of other Okies, they sought jobs, land, dignity and a future. When preparing to write the novel, John Steinbeck wrote: I want to put a tag of shame on the greedy bastards who are responsible for this [the Great Depression and its effects]. The book *The Grapes of Wrath* won John Steinbeck a large following among the working class, perhaps due to *The Grapes of Wrath's* sympathy to the workers movement and its accessible prose style. *The Grapes of Wrath* is frequently read in American high school and college literature classes. A celebrated Hollywood *The Grapes of Wrath* film version, starring Henry Fonda and directed by John Ford, was made in 1940; the closing scene of the book *The Grapes of Wrath* was not included in the movie *The Grapes of Wrath* as it would not have been

allowed by the review boards.

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