GoW chpt 19-23

Vocab.

Chapter 19

penitent p232

nebulous p 233

coveted p234

fallow p234

goaded p234

Chapter 20

subdued p240

slovenly p241

belligerently p246

disconsolate p261

circuitousness p262

self-abatement p269

pertly p270

Chapter 21

rachitic p284

pellagra p284

Chapter 22

Imperceptibly p317

Menacingly p317

Questions

Chapter 19

1. On page 231, end of the first paragraph, it says, “And these things were possession and possession was ownership. What does this mean?

2. P231, third paragraph. Explain the statement in the first two or three lines. What ultimately drives society?

3. At the top of p232, there is a passage that discusses farming and survival. To what is the part, “And all their love was thinned with money, and all their fierceness dribbled away in interest until they were no longer farmers at all, but little shopkeepers of crops, little manufacturers who must sell before they can make” referring?

4. In the same section as the previous question, further down in the paragraph, it states, “he could not survive if he were not also a good shopkeeper. And as time went on, the business men had the farms, and the farms grew larger, but there were fewer of them. Now farming became industry, and the owners followed Rome, although they did not know it.” Explain the expression, or figure of speech, used. What is Steinbeck saying? Does this occur in our society today?

5. Why is the line, “And the farms grew larger and the owners fewer” repeated?

6. The last paragraph on p232 again discusses the state of the farms. How does this compare to today? What similarities are there?

7. In the middle of the first full paragraph on page 233, there is a reference to ants. What is the significance of the passage? What comparison is Steinbeck making? Why use more bugs?

8. Explain the second paragraph on p234, beginning with, “And a homeless man…” Why would the fertile fields be fallow? Was this ordered by the government, or a decision of the farmers?

9. In the middle of page 234, paragraph beginning, “ And in the south he saw…” What logic is in this? What value does this idea support? (What is seemingly most valued by doing this?). What are your thoughts on this? Is it justified?

10. Explain Steinbeck’s point in saying, (later on p234) “He drove his old car into town. He scoured the farms for work. Where can we sleep the night? … He drove his old car to Hooverville. He never asked again, for there was a Hooverville on the edge of every town.”

11. In the first paragraph on p236, describe how the citizens are being treated. Do people still act this way? What has changed?

12. Toward the end of p236, there is a news report. What are your thoughts on this? Who was justified, the cop or the kid? Was ‘justice’ served?

13. According to Steinbeck, what is the ultimate fear? What could possibly cause a just and law-abiding man to commit a crime?

14. There are several references to land disputes over time. At the top of p237, first paragraph, “In Hooverville the men talking: Grampa took his lan’ from the Injuns.” Read into the next paragraph. What is the irony? Who is right? Is there a time when taking something by force is acceptable? Explain.

15. What point is Steinbeck making on p237. Analyze and explain.

16. p238, first paragraph, “And the great owners…” Steinbeck makes two statements that are true about society. Name and explain these facts.

17. There is an underlying idea in this chapter, it is brought out on p238 in the second full paragraph. What other event comes to mind when reading this section? Do you think the book is somehow related to this event? Is Steinbeck talking about American society, some other country, or just people in general? Why? Explain your reasoning.

18. The last three paragraphs on p239 foreshadow what?

Chapter 20

1. Read the scene at the bottom of p242, “Pa said, “I jus’ ast your woman…’” to the bottom of p243. What would you think if you were a Joad?

2. The last half of p245 gives an explanation for the hand-bills advertising work. What is this reason, according to the stranger talking to the Joads?

3. Explain the stranger’s comment, ‘”You stay out here a little while, an’ if you smell roses, you come let me smell, too.”’

4. This stranger, the young man talking to the Joads, shares his philosophy on p246 in the second paragraph. What is his philosophy? Do you think Tom agrees? Why?

5. At the bottom of p246, Tom says, ‘”Well, s’pose them people got together…’” In the next paragraph, the young man responds to Tom. What is the young man’s tone?

6. Tom comes to a realization in this chapter. In the middle of page 247, Tom states this epiphany. What is it?

7. The very last line on p247 is a figure of speech meaning what? (This is again mentioned in the first section of p248)

8. What does the expression, “bull-simple” mean? (p248)

9. A the bottom of p267, top p268. Something happens at the camp. What happened? Does anything seem unjust or unfair? Why?

10. P269 – Why does Pa give Uncle John money? Why do you suppose Ma goes along with it? How does she feel about it? How do you know?

11. p271, toward the bottom. Describe how the law works. Does it seem fair? Who benefits?

12. What happens to Connie? Is Pa right in his analysis of him p272

13. Why do people keep leaving? What about the situation the family is in, or the general circumstances, makes people feel the need to ‘stay behind’? What do you think would have happened if Connie or grandpa had stayed home? How would they be now?

14. Why are people arming themselves with weapons? P278

15. Explain the meaning of the passage at the bottom of p280 and the top lines of p281. What literary device (figurative language) is used?

Chapter 21

1. Explain the first 2 paragraphs in chapter 21 (p282)

2. Explain passage on p283, beginning with, “The local people whipped themselves into a mold of cruetly…”

3. p283. What is happening? The landowners keep inviting more people to work, the locals do not like the influx of “foreigners”, and citizens are being treated like criminals. Does this sound like any issue we see today?

4. Explain the passage at the end of p283, “And now the great owners and the companies invented…” What does this parallel in today’s society?

5. Analze the statement at the end of the chapter, the last paragraph. What is the key idea?

Chapter 22

1. Explain the significance of the passage (p291) “There was color in the light now…” Read and analyze the meaning.

2. The Joads meet Timothy and he makes a statement about why he sold his car. Read the passage p293 and explain his motivation in selling his car. What underlying emotion drove him to that decision?

3. Tom is confused as to why his neighbors would help him find work (p293). Do people behave this way today?

4. What reason did the boss give the men for lowering their wages? Why did this happen? Do things like this happen today? What prevents this?

5. Explain the passage on p296 where Thomas responds to Tom’s question. (begins, ‘”I’ll tell you why, …”’ Are there groups of people who hold that philosophy about other groups of people today? Why?

6. Why do you think Steinbeck used another character (Thomas) in the same scene as Tom?

7. When the Joads get to the government camp, what is it like? Are they welcome there? Describe the camp’s essence or atmosphere.

8. Tom makes a statement at the top of p297, starting with, “Tom hefted the pick…” What is he talking about?

9. Who is Rawley? Describe him. P304

10. At the bottom of p307, Ma comments, ‘“Why, I feel like people again.”’ Why does she say this?

11. Describe the woman who upset Rose. How does Ma react to this? What are your thoughts about her?

12. What makes this camp different from the others? Cite 3 differences.

13. Ma encounters a new woman (Mrs. Joyce) on p316. What does Annie Littlefield say in reference to Mrs. Joyce regarding charity?

14. What is the overall feeling of the women about charity (bottom p316)? Is there a group today that shares this philosophy? Who? What do you think of this idea?

15. How does Ruthie behave with the other children later in the chapter? Did this surprise you, given Ruthie’s character?

16. Discuss the significance of the line, ‘“The poor is tryin’ to be rich.’” P320

17. “Pa strolled away, and his eyes followed the giant V of ducks down the sky.” What is significant about this line?

18. At the end of the chapter, Ma sends John to the store for food. How are they going to pay for it? Do you think Ma is proud? Is it a good pride?

Chapter 23

1. At the bottom of p326, Steinbeck makes mention of ‘rich’ and ‘poor’. What do you think his message is about wealth?
2. What figurative language element is used on p328 after the break? What is it comparing?
3. Interpret the last sentence in the chapter. P330