**Chapter 25**

1. Does the scenario detailed on p348 about the ‘little farmers’ and the ‘little orchards’ still happen   today? What makes this business profitable? Why do farmers continue, both then and now?

2.  The phrase ‘men of knowledge’ (p348) refers to whom?

3.  What literary element (figurative language) does Steinbeck use on page 348 in this phrase, “for the debt will have choked the owner.”?

4.  Explain the passage (p348) beginning with, “The decay spreads over the State…” Describe the literary device used and give at least two senses that this appeals to.

5.  Give your thoughts about the last paragraph on p348. Does this seem wrong? Why?

6.  What mental picture does the last paragraph on p349 suggest?

7.  Explain how the very last sentence in the chapter is significant.

**Chapter 26**

1. Why would anyone ever HAVE to leave the government camp? P351

2.  Whose decision was it to leave? Do you agree? Why? P352

3.  Who does Ma have the most confidence in?

4.  What are your thoughts on the exchange between Rose and Ma? Why did neither of them consider selling the earrings?

5.  When Rose expresses concern over her unborn child, how does Ma respond? P355 Do you think Ma is pretending? Why?

6.  What is significant about the men’s discussion at the bottom of p357, top of page 358?

7.  In the second paragraph on page 358, Steinbeck makes a second reference to feeding horses even when they’re not working. Why would he repeat this idea? What is the point here, do people or animals have more value?

8.  How does Steinbeck interject humor in a novel with such a grave message? Cite an example from this chapter.

9.  How does Ma’s vision of a house differ from the one she talked about before leaving home?p363

10.  Although it was not stated, do you think the Joad family ever used the credit allowance at the government camp?

11.  What do you think the ‘fear’ is that is referenced in the last sentence on p369?

12.  Describe Ma’s experience at the store. Are there stores today like this one?

13.  How does the store clerk respond when Ma ‘calls him out’?

14.  On page 375, the clerk says, “A fella got a right to eat.” What are your feelings about this statement. Is he correct? Explain your answer.

15.  What is the reason behind Ma’s statement, “Learnin’ it all a time, ever’ day…”? p376

16.  What kind of conflict is described on page 377 where Tom asks the guard where he might take a bath.

17.  Who reappears in this chapter?

18.  In the government camp, people were cared for by the people. Do you think Steinbeck uses this as irony? What is the perception of the government today?

19.  At the end of the chapter, Ma again comments on housing. How does her most recent ‘dream home’ compare to the other places where the family has lived?

**Chapter 27**

1. What advice is given about picking cotton? Why? (p407)

**Chapter 28**

1.  How have the children changed since leaving home? In Ruthie’s first fight, her behavior was surprising. Now, how does it seem? Why do you think she acts this way? (p414)

2.  What does Tom talk to Ma about doing? P419

3.  What does Tom imply in his speech at the bottom of p419, top of p420? Explain the meaning behind his words and observations about life and the time period. This section is the most referred to section in the book.

4.  What do you think will happen to Tom? Do you think he will see the family again? Why?

5.  How does the setting (rain) add to the mood of the chapter?

6.  Do you think the Joads intend to go back home? Why? (p422,423)

7.  What reason does Ma give for the differences between men and women? Why does she launch into a speech in the middle of p423?

8.  What does Uncle John mean when he says, ‘”If on’y she didn’ die that time –“”? p423

9.  Read the paragraph at the top of p435. Why did Rose do this?

**Chapter 29**

1. Describe the season that is the time of year in this chapter, specifically p434

2.  Steinbeck again refers to the work horses that are cared for even when they’re not working. What is meant by the last paragraph on p434? Does this relate to the horse comparison? Explain.

**Chapter 30**

1. What is significant about Al’s removal of the tarp? (p436)

2.  To what is Uncle John referring to at the top of p442? What may have happened in his past?

3.  The 7th line down on p442, Uncle John says that he’s got to work or he’ll run away. Why?