

The Synopsis of *The Grapes of Wrath*

The last rain comes in early May in Oklahoma, which soon turns it into “Dust-Bowl”. The crops ruin. Small farmers are forced to give up their lands for they cannot pay the loan to the bank. People are moving elsewhere, looking for a better place without realizing that the riches have tricked them, and this makes a great wave of migration. In general, the novel can be divided into three major sections of the Joads’ way to California; section 1 tells about the condition in Oklahoma, section 2 tells about their journey, and section 3 tells about their live in California.

Tom Joad, being on parole after killing a man back then, tries to get a ride home. On his way, he meets Jim Casy, an ex-priest, who later changes his vision towards humanity. Tom finds himself surprisingly shocked as he arrives at his house, for the house has been knocked in and pushed all out of shape. With the help from Muley Graves, Tom Joad and Jim Casy are finally able to get on where the Joads are staying.

Joad’s family, now has been reassembled along with Jim Casy, is amazingly worried about their lives and ready to leave for a better place to live and make a living. They are in the Highway 66 on their way to California, as well as on their way to the beginning of the break of the family. The breaking up starts with Grampa Joad’s die in Wilsons’ tent right after they leave Oklahoma. However, it is the new turning point of Joad family to consider other people other than Joad family itself as they move on together with the Wilsons.

Joad family is in Arizona when they have to let Noah leaves the family and chooses to stay by the river where they pull over. Besides,

another breaking up arises when Joad family has to leave the Wilsons, as Mrs. Wilson is unable to continue the journey for being very sick. Another hard time the Joad family has to bear with is Granma Joad's die right when they are on the entrance border of California. Moreover, now Joads have to move on without Jim Casy – as he is arrested by the Deputy for a problem Tom makes, and Connie – as he runs away from the reality and leaves his expecting wife behind, Rose of Sharon.

Living in California is not as promised as they have hoped before. Ma Joad decides to move away from government camp, where they find themselves rejuvenated for a while, as there is no one who gets any work except Tom. On their way to South, a little luck comes towards them as they bump into a contractor looking for workers. Yet this leads into an event when Tom meets Jim Casy while walking around at night, and ends up with Tom's anger that kills one of the police officers who kill Casy. His effort along this time to hide his identity from police, to hold himself against fight, and to get his family into California now is in danger. Being cornered between his family live and his own live, he finally decides to separate from the family and hide out in a cave, which brings the story into climax. His believe that people must unite to get rid of the condition. The time for Tom to start all over begins from here; it is to live his vision towards humanity and to continue uniting people as what Casy has been doing just before he is killed.

It is on the beginning of winter when the Joad family has to face the final attempt on their journey. Besides the grieve the family has upon the inborn baby of Rose, Al Joad also has to leave the family to stay with Wainwright family for Agnes Wainwright, the woman he loves. Ma Joad, realizing herself unable to hold Al any longer, decides to let him go and

moves with the rest of the family to a safer place to avoid overflowing flood. The story ends as Rose changes within her mysterious smile when she is breastfeeding a kid's starving father they meet at a barn, leaving the reader in questions and curiosity.