

# Gale Scavenger Hunt

## Literature Resource Center: John Steinbeck

**1** What is the title of the book Steinbeck wrote that defined the experience of the Great Depression? Why do you think this critical essay is titled, “Steinbeck’s myth of the Okies”?

**Answer:** *The Grapes of Wrath*. There is historical data proving the novel is false or very exaggerated.

**Source:** Windschuttle, Keith. “Steinbeck’s myth of the Okies.” *New Criterion*, June 2002, p. 24+. *Literature Resource Center*.

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**2** Where is the quote from? What do you think it means?

**Answer:** *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Answers will vary.

**Source:** “Parting Words: On Journeys.” *Weekend All Things Considered*, 18 Jan. 2009. *Literature Resource Center*.

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**3** What was the name of the first play Steinbeck published? What year did Steinbeck win the Nobel Prize in Literature? What are some the activities Steinbeck participated in while attending high school?

**Answer:** *Of Mice and Men*. 1962. Steinbeck participated in football, track, basketball, school plays, and yearbook, and also served as senior class president.

**Source:** Williams, DoRinda F. “John Steinbeck.” *American World War II Correspondents*, edited by Jeffrey B. Cook, Gale, 2012. *Dictionary of Literary Biography* Vol. 364. *Literature Resource Center*.

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**4** Where does the story take place? What is a bindlestiff? Who are Lennie Small and George Milton?

**Answer:** Salinas Valley, CA on California Ranches. Single migrant laborers usually white males. George Milton and Lennie Small are the main characters in *Of Mice and Men*. Lennie is an enormous man, hulking in size, but “slow-witted.” George is a small man, but intelligent.

**Source:** Moss, Joyce, and George Wilson. “Overview: Of Mice and Men.” *Literature and Its Times: Profiles of 300 Notable Literary Works and the Historical Events that Influenced Them, vol. 3: Growth of Empires to the Great Depression (1890-1930s)*, Gale, 1997. *Literature Resource Center*.

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**5** What was the author referring to when she wrote, “while John Steinbeck followed the dust storms west”? Whom is this poem about?

**Answer:** The Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

**Source:** Ostriker, Alicia. “Suite for Eleanor.” *The Women’s Review of Books*, Jan.-Feb. 2006, p. 16. *Literature Resource Center*.

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