

Task 10

Grade 10 English Unit: The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Iowa Core: Use a variety of strategies and skills to comprehend and interpret complex literature.

After students have read the novel, the teacher distributes to each student a 3" x 5" index card with one of the following names on each: Tom Joad, Ma Joad, Jim Casy, Granma or Granpa Joad, Rosasharn, Connie Rivers, Al Joad, a big California farmer, Muley Graves or any of the farmers who stayed behind and didn't head west; Jim Rawley or any camp manager at a government-run migrant camp. Students will work in groups of two or three (one group for each character)

For background information, teacher will alert students to American Memory website Voices from the Dust Bowl (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/afctshhtml/tshome.html>)

Students will consider these questions:

- What three or four carefully selected adjectives best describe the character's dominant personality traits?
- What two or three questions would you like to ask this character that would help you to better understand the individual?
- What two or three objects or symbols do you associate with this character?

Each group will collaboratively write a dramatic monologue (suggested length: 25-35 lines) for the character they are analyzing.

A dramatic monologue is a type of poem (generally free verse, in a very conversational tone) that is voiced by a single speaker to a quiet listener or to the reader. Although the speaker addresses a specific topic, in the process, the individual reveals a great deal about her/himself.

Each monologue should

- meet the definition of a dramatic monologue,
- accurately and appropriately represent the character in a voice that seems authentic to that individual,
- reflect a knowledge of the character and his/her role in the novel, and
- reveal some previously unknown facet of the character's life (i.e., the audience should gain a deeper understanding of the character's psychology).

Each group will choose one member to read their monologue to the class.

Book that taught you something about a group to which you do not belong

*Character
Family
Displacement
Justice
Depression
Adversity - How do people handle it?*

*evidence
evidence
quote/page
justification*