

## BBC: John Steinbeck- Voice of America

We are about to begin reading *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. It is fitting to view the context in which the author lived his life, considering, much of his life and the time he lived influenced his writings.

Steinbeck lived during the great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Both events were catastrophic and as a result, there are stories and images in this documentary that are tough to see and listen to. Please be respectful, but also have a critical mind.

***Think to yourself: What events could lead people to treat other people like this and force people to live like they had to at that time?***

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What major, catastrophic event inspired Steinbeck's biggest novel?
2. Who did Steinbeck consider to be the villains of the farmers?
3. What road was the main route of farmers fleeing the Dust Bowl?
4. How did California handle the migrants that were attempting to enter the state for work?
5. List some of the atrocities that people were subjected to in the labor camps.
6. When and where was Steinbeck born?
7. Who are the two main characters in the book *Of Mice and Men*?

8. Steinbeck wrote about the poor working class people suffering from the Great Depression. What part of the body did Steinbeck use often to symbolize the working class person?
  
9. What is unique about Tom Collin's Labor Camp versus the majority of the other camps?
  
10. Who lives in the migrant camps now? Are you surprised that we still have these camps to this day?
  
11. What is Steinbeck's opinion on how humanity's relationship with nature?
  
12. Respond to this quote with a paragraph of your own:

*"America has gone soft, a nation, or a group or an individual cannot survive being soft...the individual only survives when the pressure is on him. The American people are losing their ability to be versatile, to do things for themselves...when people or animals loose their versatility, they become extinct" (Steinbeck).*

During your writing, consider those words in the context of our own time and population. Are we that same America that Steinbeck describes? Use details from your personal experience.