

## Upper School English Department 2019 Summer Reading (Grade 11 AP):

Mrs. Smith  
AP English Language and Composition

### *Grapes of Wrath* Summer Assignment

Please purchase the CENTENNIAL edition of the text, available through Amazon.com (ISBN-13:978-0142000663):

[https://www.amazon.com/Grapes-Wrath-Centennial-John-Steinbeck/dp/0142000663/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=3GQ8WNPVFSWZZ&keywords=grapes+of+wrath+centennial+edition&qid=1558024247&s=gateway&srefix=grapes+of+wrath+cent%2Caps%2C144&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Grapes-Wrath-Centennial-John-Steinbeck/dp/0142000663/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3GQ8WNPVFSWZZ&keywords=grapes+of+wrath+centennial+edition&qid=1558024247&s=gateway&srefix=grapes+of+wrath+cent%2Caps%2C144&sr=8-1)

Please take care in purchasing this particular edition, as it's important to have corresponding pagination as we discuss the novel as a class.

### **Your assignment:**

Thoroughly annotate the novel using the guiding questions below. **You'll need to annotate the entire novel by the first day of school.** Here are guidelines for annotating well:

*(1) On the whole, quality is more important than quantity; **thorough annotations every five pages will help you engage with and process the novel more meaningfully than scribbling single words on every page.** Do not stress about writing something down on every page; by the same token, one annotation every twenty pages—even a detailed, paragraph-length note—won't help you connect parts of the book together as thoroughly as you need to.*

*(2) Avoid writing down single literary terms like “symbol,” “theme,” or “characterization.” Talk about the book—not around it. Those terms don't really help you make any sense of anything unless you comment more deeply about them. Don't just notice events: try to explain or describe them.*

*(3) Personal comments (“Cool!” “Weird!” “I don't get this!”) won't really help you. If you're compelled to write such comments, follow them up with legitimate comments about characterization, voice, symbolism, setting, theme, etc.*

### **Guiding Questions: Use these as the basis of your annotations**

Question #1: Consider economic injustice in the novel: this question will produce a significant number of annotations.

Question #2: Consider the role of spirituality in this novel. (Take into account Biblical allusions, discussions on spirituality, and Jim Casy's characterization).

Question #3: Consider the role of women, especially Rose of Sharon's evolution throughout the novel. How does she transform from a “girl” to a “woman” who will inherit the matriarchal role of the family?

Question #4: How does Tom Joad evolve throughout the novel, especially in his view of the individual's involvement in the collective society?

Question # 5: What is the relationship between animals and machines in the novel?

Question 6: What is the "message" of this novel? Is it pessimistic? Hopeful? Consider especially the "interlude" chapters that don't necessarily advance the plot.