

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Gifted Summer Reading Assignment

Goal: The goals of the reading assignment are twofold: to prepare you to think critically about literature from around the world/mythology and to continue to challenge yourself with reading material, thus increasing comprehension and vocabulary.

Texts: East of Eden by John Steinbeck

Additional text for Fall: Classical Tragedy Greek and Roman: Eight Plays in Authoritative Modern Translations edited by Robert W. Corrigan ISBN # I 55783-046-0

Edith Hamilton's Mythology

**NOTE:** You must notify Mrs. Simons by June 5<sup>th</sup> if you are reading Ivanhoe instead and then you must arrange to pick up the package that is alternative to this no later than July 10<sup>th</sup>. (678-733-0451 cell) I will be out of town from June 13-July 6.

**Recommendations for Reading:** Because of the scope of the assignment and because of the mythological background you will need, we suggest you read and complete the assignment for East of Eden last.

### **East of Eden/Steinbeck**

INTO: Background Reading and Related Reading for East of Eden

Steinbeck worked on East of Eden for half a decade before its publication in September 1952. The novel, originally intended for his two sons, Thom and John, began as a family chronicle for his own family. The Hamilton family retells Steinbeck's maternal (Olive Hamilton) family history. In its earliest form the draft began....

Dear Thom and John: You are little boys now, when I am writing this... [This] will be two Books – the story of my country and the story of me. (Lisca, 262)

By country, Steinbeck means the United States with a primary focus on the Salinas Valley and California. However, by 1949 the novel had developed beyond a plot of Steinbeck's country and life. Intermingled with his own story, he set out to tell a parable, a myth of sorts that revolved around the story of Adam and Eve and the loss of Eden – a parable of good and evil, desire, failure, and predestination. The two stories became difficult to intermarry, and even Steinbeck acknowledged that the story of the Trasks could stand alone (263).

Because Steinbeck deviated from his original idea, the book has a complicated plot; one about the Hamiltons (Steinbeck's own family history) and one about the Trasks (a mythological concoction which moves from the immediate world of the Trasks to a parable encompassing all of humanity) the relationship between the individual plot lines can prove difficult; therefore, they can be read as separate entities if necessary.

## The Hamiltons

Samuel and Liza Hamilton are actually Steinbeck's maternal grandparents. Will was his uncle and Olive was his mother. The infrequent and sporadic use of "I" and "me" in the novel is Steinbeck's point of view and is actually remains of the book in its earliest form:

The domestic problems of the Hamilton family and their eight children – George, Will, Tom, Joe Una, Lizzie, Dessie, Mollie, Olive (Steinbeck's mother) – are given in detail. Some of these anecdotes, such as the death of Dessie, the suicide of Tome, and Olive's Airplane ride, are interesting [and mostly true]. (266)

However, these events have little or no relationship to the story of the Trasks, which takes up the majority of the novel. The conversations between Lee, Samuel, and Adam, however, do play a role in connecting and paralleling the two stories.

## The Trasks

The story of the Trasks is a cyclical one. There are two interwoven sets (triads) of characters that are used to show Steinbeck's concern with the concepts of free will and predestination, and his struggle to define good and evil.

The first generation of Cathy (Kate), Charles, and his brother, Adam, parallels in many ways the story of Adam's sons, Cal and Aron and the young girl, Abra. As the title of the novel suggests, this plot line deals with man after the fall from Grace. Steinbeck shows the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis through his use of both sets of characters. Lisca notes:

All the Cain characters in the novel are identified by names beginning with "C" (Cyrus, Charles, Cathy, Caleb) and the Abel characters by names beginning with "A" (Alice Adam, Aron, Abra)...the crime of Cain is presented five times in the novel, once with Cathy and her parents (whose surname is Ames), twice with Charles and Adam, once with Cathy and Adam, and again with Caleb and Aron. (268)

However, Steinbeck does not stereotype his characters. He allows them free will at times and gives them the ambiguity to be both nurturers and destroyers. The difference between the Cain figures and the Abel characters is Cain destroys more than he/she nourishes and Abel, in contrast, nourishes more than he/she destroys.

## ACCEPTANCE OF EDEN

Despite its fragmentation, Steinbeck's East of Eden was well received by the literary world. The "bent over backward to celebrate the excellence of his latest book by avoiding all technical considerations and exulting over its great moral theme" (274). Steinbeck reveals his own feelings saying:

I think everything else I have written has been, in a sense, practice for this...If East of Eden isn't good, then I've been wasting my time. It has in it everything I have been able to learn about my art or craft or profession in all these years. (275)

Whatever its successes or failures, East of Eden has retained its popularity since the 1952 publication. Moreover, it has visited the screen on two separate occasions, once in the 50's, with James Dean and once again in the 80's, as a television mini-series with Jane Seymour as the "monster" Kate.

As an interesting side note: when the original *East of Eden* played in Salinas, many residents spoke out against Steinbeck and refused to attend the film. It seems many of the characters were thinly disguised composites of friends and relatives and “they” knew who they were and resented Steinbeck’s washing Salinas’ dirty linen in public. The same reaction was not apparent thirty years later, when the sons and daughters of those residents applied as stand-ins and bit part actors in scenes shot on location.

## References for Reading

From *East of Eden*: Timshel reference

“Do you remember when you read us the sixteen verses of the fourth chapter of Genesis and we argued about them?”

“I do indeed. And that’s a long time ago.”

“Ten years nearly,” said Lee. “Well, the story bit deeply into me and I went into it word for word. The more I thought about the story, the more profound it became to me. Then I compared the translations we have—and they were fairly close. There was only one place that bothered me. The King James version says this—it is when Jehovah has asked Cain why he is angry. Jehovah says, ‘If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.’ It was the ‘thou shalt’ that struck me, because it was a promise that Cain would conquer sin.”

Samuel nodded. “And his children didn’t do it entirely,” he said.

Lee sipped his coffee. “Then I got a copy of the American Standard Bible. It was very new then. And it was different in this passage. It says, ‘Do thou rule over him.’ Now this is very different. This is not a promise, it is an order. And I began to stew about it. I wondered what the original word of the original writer had been that these very different translations could be made.”

Samuel put his palms down on the table and leaned forward and the old young light came into his eyes. “Lee,” he said, “don’t tell me you studied Hebrew!”

Lee said, “I’m going to tell you. And it’s a fairly long story. Will you have a touch of ng-ka-py?”

“You mean the drink that tastes of good rotten apples?”

“Yes. I can talk better with it.”

“Maybe I can listen better,” said Samuel.

While Lee went to the kitchen Samuel asked, “Adam, did you know about this?”

“No,” said Adam. “He didn’t tell me. Maybe I wasn’t listening.”

Lee came back with his stone bottle and three little porcelain cups so thin and delicate that the light shone through them. “Dlinkee Chinee fashion,” he said and poured the almost black liquor. “There’s a lot of wormwood in this. It’s quite a drink,” he said. “Has about the same effect as absinthe if you drink enough of it.”

Samuel sipped the drink. “I want to know why you were so interested,” he said.

“Well, it seemed to me that the man who could conceive this great story would know exactly what he wanted to say and there would be no confusion in his statement.”

“You say ‘the man.’ Do you then not think this is a divine book written by the inky finger of God?”

“I think the mind that could think this story was a curiously divine mind. We have had a few such minds in China too.”

“I just wanted to know,” said Samuel. “You’re not a Presbyterian after all.”

“I told you I was getting more Chinese. Well, to go on, I went to San Francisco to the headquarters of our family association. Do you know about them? Our great families have centers where any member can get help or give it. The Lee family is very large. It takes care of its own.”

“I have heard of them,” said Samuel.

“You mean Chinee hatchet man fightee Tong war over slave girl?”

“I guess so.”

“It’s a little different from that, really,” said Lee. “I went there because in our family there are a number of ancient reverend gentlemen who are great scholars. They are thinkers in exactness. A man may spend many years pondering a sentence of the scholar you call Confucius. I thought there might be experts in meaning who could advise me.

“They are fine old men. They smoke their two pipes of opium in the afternoon and it rests and sharpens them, and they sit through the night and their minds are wonderful. I guess no other people have been able to use opium well.”

Lee dampened his tongue in the black brew. “I respectfully submitted my problem to one of these sages, read him the story, and told him what I understood from it. The next night four of them met and called me in. We discussed the story all night long.”

Lee laughed. “I guess it’s funny,” he said. “I know I wouldn’t dare tell it to many people. Can you imagine four old gentlemen, the youngest is over ninety now, taking on the study of Hebrew? They engaged a learned rabbi. They took to the study as though they were children. Exercise books, grammar, vocabulary, simple sentences. You should see Hebrew written in Chinese ink with a brush! The right to left didn’t bother them as much as it would you, since we write up to down. Oh, they were perfectionists! They went to the root of the matter.”

“And you?” said Samuel.

“I went along with them, marveling at the beauty of their proud clean brains. I began to love my race, and for the first time I wanted to be Chinese. Every two weeks I went to a meeting with them, and in my room here I covered pages with writing. I bought every known Hebrew dictionary. But the old gentlemen were always ahead of me. It wasn’t long before they were ahead of our rabbi; he brought a colleague in. Mr. Hamilton, you should have sat through some of those nights of argument and discussion. The questions, the inspection, oh, the lovely thinking—the beautiful thinking.

“After two years we felt that we could approach your sixteen verses of the fourth chapter of Genesis. My old gentlemen felt that these words were very important too—‘Thou shalt’ and ‘Do thou.’ And this was the gold from our mining: ‘Thou mayest.’ ‘Thou mayest rule over sin.’ The old gentlemen smiled and nodded and felt the years were well spent. It brought them out of their Chinese shells too, and right now they are studying Greek.”

Samuel said, “It’s a fantastic story. And I’ve tried to follow and maybe I’ve missed somewhere. Why is this word so important?”

Lee’s hand shook as he filled the delicate cups. He drank his down in one gulp. “Don’t you see?” he cried. “The American Standard translation orders men to triumph over sin, and you can call sin ignorance. The King James translation makes a promise in ‘Thou shalt,’ meaning that men will surely triumph over sin. But the Hebrew word, the word *timshel*—‘Thou mayest’—that gives a choice. It might be the most important word in the world. That says the way is open. That throws it right back on a man. For if ‘Thou mayest’—it is also true that ‘Thou mayest not.’ Don’t you see?”

“Yes, I see. I do see. But you do not believe this is divine law. Why do you feel its importance?”

“Ah!” said Lee. “I’ve wanted to tell you this for a long time. I even anticipated your questions and I am well prepared. Any writing which has influenced the thinking and the lives of innumerable people is important. Now, there are many millions in their sects and churches who feel the order, ‘Do thou,’ and throw their weight into obedience. And there are millions more who feel predestination in ‘Thou shalt.’ Nothing they may do can interfere with what will be. But ‘Thou mayest’! Why, that makes a man great, that gives him stature with the gods, for in his weakness and his filth and his murder of his brother he has still the great choice. He can choose his course and fight it through and win.” Lee’s voice was a chant of triumph.

Adam said, “Do you believe that, Lee?”

“Yes, I do. Yes, I do. It is easy out of laziness, out of weakness, to throw oneself into the lap of deity, saying, ‘I couldn’t help it; the way was set.’ But think of the glory of the choice! That makes a man a man. A cat has no choice, a bee must make honey. There’s no godliness there. And do you know, those old gentlemen who were sliding gently down to death are too interested to die now?”

Adam said, “Do you mean these Chinese men believe the Old Testament?”

Lee said, “These old men believe a true story, and they know a true story when they hear it. They are critics of truth. They know that these sixteen verses are a history of humankind in any age or culture or race. They do not believe a man writes fifteen and three-quarter verses of truth and tells a lie with one verb. Confucius tells men how they should live to have good and successful lives. But this—this is a ladder to climb to the stars.” Lee’s eyes shone. “You can never lose that. It cuts the feet from under weakness and cowardliness and laziness.”

Adam said, “I don’t see how you could cook and raise the boys and take care of me and still do all this.”

“Neither do I,” said Lee. “But I take my two pipes in the afternoon, no more and no less, like the elders. And I feel that I am a man. And I feel that a man is a very important thing—maybe more important than a star. This is not theology. I have no bent toward gods. But I have a new love for that glittering instrument, the human soul. It is a lovely and unique thing in the universe. It is always attacked and never destroyed—because ‘Thou mayest.’”

#### Biblical Text:

And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the Tree of Life. (Gen. 3.22-24) And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, “I have gotten a man from the Lord.”

And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time, it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

And the Lord said unto Cain, “Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And the Lord said unto Cain, “Where is Abel thy brother?”

And he said, “I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?”

And he said, “What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the Earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand; when thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the Earth.”

And Cain said unto the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the Earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the Earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.”

And the Lord said unto him, “Therefore, whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.”

And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him. And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. (Gen. 4.1-16)

Avra/Abra – shortened forms of Abraham...meaning father of many nations. Avra is the servant who helps Judith kill Holofernes in the apocryphal text of Judith. Abra is the concubine of King Solomon.

## Assignment for East of Eden: Learning to Annotate a Book

Pre-read...before you read answer **ALL** of the following on the inside cover of your book prior to reading the book.

1. What or where is "Eden?" What connotations are associated with the word?
2. Based on the title and any cursory reading you have completed, what do you expect from the novel?
3. Do you believe in good and evil? Do you believe that people are born to be totally evil and corrupt? Explain your answer.

**While you Read the novel....** Keep **all** work in your novel, *East of Eden*. Make certain that you write the numbers to the questions you are answering in the margins, highlight the answers and make notes in the margins.

1. Find a way to denote good and evil in the text and make a key in the front of the book and then note good and evil actions, throughout the text. For instance, you might highlight good and evil in yellow only...or you might tag it with a particular sticky note.
2. Highlight instances when you see a switch to first person point of view and make a notation in the margin, identifying the purpose of the switch
3. Answer all of the Chapter Questions. Write the numbers to the questions you are answering in the margins, highlight the answers and make notes in the margins. At the beginning or end of each chapter, write a **brief** summary and give a title to the chapter. You may have to add index cards or sticky notes in spots. **Any questions that say give a detailed account or offer an opinion...you need to write in the margins or at the beginning or end of chapter...we have noted some for you in order to get you started.**

**For each section of chapter questions, answer all and pay particular attention to those that are italicized and underlined. You will have a test and writing assignment within the first two weeks of returning to school. Your annotated book will be graded within the first week of school**

PART I

Chapter 1 and 2

1. Where does the Salinas River end?
2. Name the two mountain ranges which lie to the east and west of the Salinas Valley.
3. How can one make colored flowers brighter?
4. How many years does Steinbeck say the water cycle takes?
5. What group of people first settled the Salinas Valley? Second?
6. Who and what were different places named for? Give an example of two places

7. Who does the narrator claim were the greediest settlers?
8. To what city did Steinbeck's grandfather bring his wife? Where did they come from?
9. What sort of work did Sam Hamilton do in America? Why?
10. Describe, in detail, Sam Hamilton's wife.
11. How many children did the Hamilton's have? Who delivered them?
12. Why could Samuel make no money?
13. What sort of man do you think Samuel is? Why?
14. What was sinful to Liza Hamilton?
15. How did Adam Trask differ from the majority of people who settled in the King City area?

#### Chapters 3-6

1. Where was Adam Trask born? What is his father's name?
2. How did Adam's father lose his leg?
3. How and why did the first Mrs. Trask commit suicide?
4. Describe Adam's step-mother.
5. What is Adam's great fear as he grows older?
6. How do you feel about Cyrus Trask and his relationship with his sons? Why?(Answer at end of chapter)
7. Who can you relate to, Charles or Adam? Why?(answer at end of chapter)
8. What does Alice Trask tell Adam about Charles?
9. What type of man does Steinbeck say usually follows the life of soldiering? Do you think he is correct? Why, what evidence supports your opinion?
10. Which brother writes feeling letters of unspoken emotion? What does this show about his character?
11. What is Will Hamilton like? What is his gift?
12. Who is the darling of the Hamilton family?
13. What is Steinbeck's mother's name?
14. What type of woman does a shy man like?
15. After Adam gets out of the army what does he do/
16. Who is really a greater war hero, Adam or his father? Defend your answer with text support. (in margin)
17. What is a bindlestiff?
18. What happened to Adam in Tallahassee? Why?
19. When Adam gets home, what does Charles reveal about his relationship with their father?
20. What did the brothers receive from their father's will?
21. Which brother has more compassion, Charles or Adam? Which one holds a grudge? Defend your answer? (In margin)

#### Chapters 7-9

1. Does Steinbeck believe in monsters? What kind?
2. Why is Cathy Ames a monster? (in margin)
3. Why did Cathy tell lies? How are her lies different from the common lie? (ordinary deviation from reality)
4. What "most disturbing of human impulses" did Cathy employ to manipulate people?
5. Describe the barn incident that occurred between Catherine and the two boys. How were the boys dealt with after the event? How was Catherine dealt with? Did the punishment for each child fit the culpability of the offender?
6. What sort of relationship does Cathy have with her Latin teacher? What happens to him? How do you feel about Cathy at this point in the novel?
7. What is Cathy's favorite book?
8. How do Cathy's parents die? What do you think happened? Is Cathy a destroyer? Is she a nurturer? Defend with highlight text and notes.
9. Who is Mr. Edwards? Describe him as a person? How does Cathy become involved with him? What is her alias?
10. What one thing makes Catherine lose control?
11. When Catherine loses control with Edwards what happens?

## Chapter 10-11

1. Why does Adam leave the farm? How long is he gone?
2. Where does Adam want to move? Does Charles want him to go? Why?
3. Where does Adam end up going?
4. Does Charles make any money?
5. Why was Adam on a road gang? How does this make Charles feel about him?
6. When Adam and Charles find Cathy, who decides to keep her at the farm? Who takes care of her?
7. How does the sheriff feel about Cathy? How does Charles feel about her?
8. Does Cathy know how Charles feels? What does Charles tell her that scares her?
9. Why do you think Adam asks Cathy to marry him? Why do you think she agrees?
10. Why does Cathy give Adam her sleeping medicine? What does this tell you about the filial relationship?

## Part II:

### Chapters 12-16

1. Describe the turn of the century in America
2. How does the narrator say man's importance is measured? What does he mean? Is it true?(notes in the margin)
3. What is Adam's glory?
4. How do the people of the valley feel about Adam?
5. Why does Cathy become ill? Does Adam know? What does the doctor tell her?
6. Whose ranch does Adam buy? Describe it.
7. How do Adam and Samuel Hamilton meet? What was Adam's first impression of Sam?
8. What does Samuel say about his son Tom?
9. From what language does wisquebaugh come? What is it?
10. What was the center of western culture in the early 1900's
11. What profession for women made them a prize catch for a man?
12. Which child of Samuel's became a teacher? How is she related to the author?
13. Describe the role of a teacher at the turn of the century.
14. What is Olive's feeling about religion? How do you know?
15. Who is Lee?
16. what quality does Cathy have that every successful criminal needs
17. To what type of animal does the narrator compare Cathy? Why do you think so?
18. What is the queue? What does it represent to the Chinese?
19. Why does Lee pretend to speak only pidgin?
20. Why does Lee not mix with people?
21. What does Lee say about a good servant? Do you agree with him? (notes in the margin)
22. How does Samuel feel when he eats dinner with the Trasks? Is he more comfortable with Lee, Adam, or Cathy? How do you know?
23. What role do Lee and Sam serve in the structure of the text? Why does the author create secondary characters like these two men? (answer at end of chapter)

### Chapter 17-19

1. What does Cathy look like during her pregnancy? What does she crave?
2. Who rides to get Hamilton for Cathy's labor?
3. What book does Sam hide from his wife? Why?
4. What does Sam want Adam to do during the delivery?
5. What does Sam see in Cathy's eyes? How does he respond? How does she respond to him initially? Later?
6. Are the twins fraternal or identical? How do you know? What might one infer from this?
7. What does Samuel tell Lee about his feelings of despair? How are the two men alike? (notes in margin)

8. How long does Liza stay at the Trasks? For what purpose?
9. Who is Horace Quinn
10. How does Trask cover up Cathy's crime? Is he truly the fool Cathy calls him?
11. How does Horace describe Adam to his wife?
12. At first, what does the deputy think happened to Cathy?
13. What does Julius suggest Horace do prior to reporting anything to the sheriff?
14. Give a detailed account about what the sheriff says concerning Faye, Cathy, and being sheriff.
15. What pattern does a new country follow? What comes last in a new area?
16. What two institutions arrive simultaneously in the West? What did each offer a city?
17. How were streets originally named (for instance, Castroville)?
18. Who are the three madams of Salinas? Describe in detail each....and the nature of the men who frequent each establishment. (notes in margin)
19. What do Jenny and the Nigger resent about Faye?
20. How does Kate react when speaking of her children?
21. What are the two things a madam needs to know about a new employee? Does Kate meet the requirements?
22. What does the sheriff tell Kate?

#### Chapter 20-22

1. Name at least one difference between Faye and Kate.
2. When Faye begins feeling motherly what happens? How does Kate react?
3. What present does Faye give Kate? What does Kate give Faye?
4. What type of things does Kate say to Faye?
5. What limits many people from completing things successfully? Does this limit Kate? Why or why not?
6. What is Kate planning? How does she begin?
7. Where does Faye want to go? What does Kate think?
8. Give a detailed account of how Kate kills Faye? How does she exonerate herself? (notes in margin)
9. How does Samuel think Adam gains pleasure?
10. How does Sam hurt his back?
11. What does Lee tell Samuel that finally makes him go see Adam?
12. Describe Samuel and Liza's relationship? Do you think they love one another? Notes in margin
13. What book does Sam take with him to the Trask place? For what purpose?
14. How does Samuel bring Adam out of his depression?
15. What commentary does Samuel make about children and a tendency towards evil? How does this reflect the idea of predestination and/or free will?
16. What does Sam tell Adam about Lee?
17. How could one view the naming of the twins and the discussion as foreshadowing?
18. What does Adam name the twins? Who were these people in the Bible?

#### Part III

#### Chapters 23-26

1. Which of Sam's children had the greatest yearning to learn?
2. Who did Una marry? How did she die? Who took her death the hardest?
3. Which of Samuel's sons was destined for greatness? Why isn't he great?
4. What did Tom leave the author and his sister under the pillow when he would visit? Describe their relationship with him.
5. Why does Mary come to think less of Uncle Tom?
6. Describe Steinbeck's fishing trips with Uncle Tom.
7. Where did women go in Salinas to gossip? Where do people gossip today?
8. How do the children get Sam to retire?
9. What does Samuel tell Adam is the equivalent of "deserving a rest?" Does he seem upset?
10. Is there any significance in Caleb getting land to farm and Aron raising rabbits? If so what is the significance?

11. What does timshel mean? Why does the true translation of timshel give dignity to mankind?
12. What does the conversation with Lee reveal about his character? How has his role in the novel grown or shifted?
13. Why does Lee believe in the story of Cain and Abel?
14. Why does Hamilton "choose" to tell Adam something?
15. What does Lee mean when he says, "Samuel –you've gone beyond me?"
16. On March 15, what telegram does Tom receive?
17. Where did the family and friends go after the funeral
18. How does Adam want to remember Sam?
19. Describe Romie Lane and Monterey Road when Adam walks there after the funeral...cite text
20. What does Kate's place look like? How has she changed it?
21. Why did Adam need to see Kate in order to forget her? What does that mean?
22. Why did Kate hate Samuel? What does that reveal about her nature?
23. What does Kate confess about the twins?
24. Kate hates Adam when she can no longer manipulate him; but, she felt contempt for Mr. Edwards when she could manipulate him. What does this reveal to you about her nature? Support your answer.
25. Is Adam bitter?
26. Compare and contrast how Tom and Will deal with death.
27. What does Adam mean when he says, "I'm free, she's gone."
28. What does Lee think of immortality? Based on his definition is Sam Hamilton immortal?
29. What are Lee's two dreams?

Chapter 27-33

1. How does the reader see the twins in the first scene of Chapter 27?
2. Who is the aggressive brother? Who protects the other?
3. How does Aron look? Cal Cite with text support.
4. What part of his body is Cal sensitive about? Why do you think so?
5. Is there jealousy between the boys? If so, who is jealous of whom?
6. Compare Adam and Charles with Aron and Cal...where do you see similarities. Use a four-columned chart to make a list about each one and then highlight similarities and link them. Use text support.
7. What secret does Cal reveal to Aron? How does Aron react?
8. Who is the more practical brother? Which one is most like Adam?
9. Who is at the house when they return? How does each twin respond to a girl their age?
10. What joke does Abra make that confuses the boys?
11. Why does Cal stare down Abra? Why does he secretly punish people?
12. How would each twin deal with an ant hill if he were to come upon it? How would Adam deal with an ant hill? Charles? Cathy? Lee? Samuel?
13. How does Cal treat Abra?
14. How does Aron feel about Abra?
15. What does Adam tell Aron about their mother's grave?
16. What did Mr. Bacon propose to Adam? Why?
17. What is the story of Lee's parents? Why does he tell Adam the story? What is the significance to Adam's story?
18. To whom does Adam write? How does he end the letter?
19. What does Will Hamilton bring to Adam?
20. Does Adam know anything about a car?
21. When Adam drives to the post office, what does he discover about Charles?
22. What is the first thing Cal wants to know about his Uncle Charles? Does he have a reason to ask this question? Why? Use text support.
23. Why does Cal respect Lee? How do you feel about Lee? Why?
24. Why does Lee get angry with Adam? Do you ever feel yourself getting angry with him?
25. What does Cal pray about in the darkness? What does he tell Aron about what he heard?

26. Why does Adam go to Kate's
27. How does Kate feel about the \$50,000? How much money was that in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?
28. Who is Mr. Mouse? From what book is he from? What is perhaps happening to Kate? What does this say about evil and the diminishment of self?
29. Where does Adam go after he visits Kate? Which of her children does Liza ask about? Does she miss Samuel? How do you know? Cite text.
30. What did Dessie have that made Mrs. Morrison feel better?
31. Why does Dessie want to sell her business? Where does she want to go?
32. Describe Tom and Dessie's reunion in detail
33. What does the saying "climb out of her gray ragbag" mean?
34. Does Dessie idolize Tom? Cite examples which prove your answer.
35. Do you think that Tom and Dessie exemplify a healthy brother/sister relationship? How do they treat each other?
36. How does Dessie die?
37. Give at least two reasons that Tom commits suicide. Cite proof in the book. Do you think he had a legitimate reason? What could have prevented it?
38. How does he protect his mother?

#### PART IV

##### Chapter 34-38

1. What is the one story in the world?
2. What is the lifespan of evil? Of good?
3. Why did Steinbeck insert this chapter here? What was his purpose
4. What does the author mean by "Vice has always a fresh young face, while virtue is venerable as nothing else in the world is?"
5. How do the boys react to Lee's going? What does Lee say about their reaction?
6. What does Cal's comment, "I wonder what he'll do without us?" show about Cal
7. What were the names of Salinas' two grammar schools? Which school do the twins go to?
8. How does Cal plan to confuse the teacher? Does it work? Was it necessary?
9. Do you think Aron is a realistic person? Why or why not?
10. What is Aron really looking for in Abra? How do you know? Does Aron have the same self-awareness as Cal?
11. What does Lee mean when he says, "I know that sometimes a lie is used in kindness? I don't believe it ever works kindly." How do you think Aron will react if he ever finds out his mother is alive?
12. What was the weather like in February 1915?
13. How has Lee changed after he comes back to the Trask house?
14. What idea does Adam have that deals with a new invention?
15. Why is Will Hamilton a good person to ask about business?
16. What does Will advise Adam when he asks about this business venture? Does Adam listen?
17. What happens to Adam's business venture?
18. What has Cal craved from his earliest memory?
19. What are three ways a person can be rejected?
20. Why does Cal have no friends? How do you feel about Cal? Is he likeable?
21. How does Cal know about his mother? How is his reaction different from Aron's?
22. Who does Cal go to to discuss his mother? Does he find anything out?
23. Why can Lee not understand Kate?
24. Do you think Cal has any of Kate's impulses?
25. After Cal discovers the truth, how do his feelings change toward Adam?

##### Chapters 39-42

1. Why is Cal arrested?
2. What happens to Salinas when an interval of morality occurs?

3. Why does Adam's silence bother Cal? If Cal were the father how would he deal with an errant child?
4. Why does Adam think he is a bad father?
5. What animal does Cal compare himself to? What is the significance?
6. Why is Abra angry at Aron? Describe her anger.
7. How does Adam react when he discovers Cal knows about Kate?
8. Would you want Adam's trust? What might happen if you broke it? What does he trust Cal with?
9. For what reason is Cal studying his mother
10. Which twin looks most like Kate?
11. Who does Kate think Cal resembles? Cite text that proves this.
12. Why do you think Kate invites Cal into her house?
13. Why does Kate get upset when Cal says he loves his father?
14. What does Cal mean by "Caleb got to the Promised Land" (search Old Testament references)
15. Why does Cal want to know how Kate feels? Why is he concerned?
16. What revelation is in the statement "It just came to me whole. If I'm mean, it's my own mean." What does this have to do with Samuel Hamilton's idea of good and bad people?
17. What does Cal say that angers Kate?
18. Who is the only other person who made Kate feel panicked? How does she calm herself?
19. Why does Kate build the lean-to?
20. Who is the President?
21. Do people in Salinas believe that they will go to war?
22. Who really loves Adam more? Defend your answer...with text.
23. What does it mean to enjoy being miserable?
24. Where does Cal ask to go? What is his reason? What does Lee offer him?
25. What weapon does Cal use that Will Hamilton approves of?
26. What is Cal's motivation for making money?
27. What does Will Hamilton offer to Cal? How much money will he need? Where does he get it?
28. Who is the greatest nation in the world at this time?
29. When did World War I begin? End? In what year did the US join the war? Why did they fight?
30. Who is the leader of Germany?
31. Who is the one person a soldier could not look at when going off to war?
32. Why does Steinbeck include this chapter (42) here?

#### Chapters 43-49

1. Is Aron ambitious?
2. Which twin is most ambitious? More concerned about what people think?
3. Is Aron a snob? Defend your answer with text.
4. Who has been visiting the church where Aron worships? Why does Mr. Rolf think she visits? What is her real motivation?
5. Does Aron pass his tests? How does he act towards his family? How does this make Adam feel? Who straightens him out?
6. How does Abra feel about Cal?
7. Who does Abra read Aron's letters to?
8. What does Abra say about Cal, Aron, and their mother?
9. What does Abra ask Lee? What does he tell her?
10. Who is Joe Valery? What is his set of rules?
11. Why can Joe find no weakness in Kate?
12. Why does Joe continue to work for Kate?
13. Who is Kate obsessed with? Why? What does she ask Joe to do about it?
14. What is the last thing she asks Joe before he leaves? What is the significance of this question?

15. How has the new medicine helped Kate? What is the matter with her?
16. What was the weather like in Salinas during WWI? What did the people blame it on?
17. What is the name of the general who is the epitome of the perfect soldier?
18. Who are the Angels of Mercy? What did they do?
19. What country did the Americans mimic? Why?
20. Who was Mr. Fenchel? What did he do? What was Steinbeck's relationship to him?
21. How does Steinbeck feel about death on the battlefield? How do you know?
22. What is Adam's job after Mr. Kelly dies? How does he feel about war? Why?
23. Who do you think is the smartest twin? Who does Adam feel is the most intelligent? On what do you base your opinion? What about Adam?
24. Why would Adam bring up the discussion of timshel at this point in the novel?
25. Compare Aron's dream of his life with Abra to that of Adam and his dream with Kate?
26. Who is the male gossip of Salinas? What does Joe learn from him?
27. What does Aron confide to his brother?
28. Why does Cal want Lee to move dinner up to 5:00 p.m.?
29. Why does Cal think his father loves Aron so much? Does he recognize his own feelings of jealousy? How does he feel? How do you feel for him? Have you ever felt that way? Respond in a paragraph.
30. Why does Cal have Aron buy the champagne? What is meant by "a specialist is only a coward afraid to look out of his little cage"?
31. What does Lee say are the three things that people want?
32. What does Adam think of Cal's gift? Why? What is Cal's reaction? What does Lee tell him?
33. How does he use Aron after his father's refusal?

#### Chapters 50-55

1. What is Kate's reaction to Aron?
2. What book does Kate cling to from her childhood? What is her obsession?
3. what happens if Kate drinks all of "Drink Me"
4. Does Kate have any remorse for anything she has ever done? How do you know? Cite text support.
5. Why was Joe's plan against Kate useless? What happened to him?
6. What did Quinn find in Joe's pocket? What does he do with it?
7. What does Quinn notice about the interior design of the Trask house?
8. How does react to Kate's death? What does this show concerning Cal's belief about why Aron is so loved by Adam/
9. How much money does Kate leave? Do you think leaving everything to Aron was a good deed or an evil one? Why?
10. What are the proverbial statements that Lee reads? What do they mean? From what book did they come?
11. What does Cal do after revealing Kate to Aron?
12. Does Lee know what Cal did to Aron?
13. What does Lee tell Cal about himself and mankind?
14. What message did Adam get from Aron? How does he react?
15. What is the matter with Adam? What physical ailment does Adam complain of? Why doesn't Lee want him to go to the doctor?
16. Does Adam know why apron joined the army?
17. How does Abra break Lee's reserve?
18. Where are Cal and Abra going in the spring?
19. What happens on May 28, 1918?
20. What has Abra's father done? For what purpose does she tell Cal?
21. Why does Lee feel like a coward? Is he?
22. When Cal comes home from Alisal, what does he discover?
23. When Cal goes to Adam, what does he tell him? Does Adam understand? How do you know?
24. Who does Lee tell Cal to go and see?
25. How did Lee feel when Sam Hamilton died

26. Describe in detail the last scene in the book. Is it redemptive? Does it offer hope? In a detailed paragraph with text support defend your answer.
27. What is Adam's last word in the novel? What is the significance? Is Cal forgiven? Need Lee accept blame for Adam's death

**Follow up Writing: Choose two of the topics and pre-plan an essay. This should take more than five-minutes. You should have 4 possible topic sentences and a sharp well-defined thesis statement as well as quotes that you could possibly use. Find a minimum of 6 quotes and correctly parenthetically document them. Under each quote tell why you chose it. Have your pre-planning for each essay on separate paper and label it appropriately. This should be typed and in 12 point Arial font in MLA format. You should have it ready to turn in on the first day.**

1. Steinbeck deals with the idea of good and evil in East of Eden. Identify either a good character or evil character and trace their behavior through the novel, commenting on the choices they make and whether they had a choice.
  - a. Are the good people always nourishing? The evil always destructive?
  - b. Does your character always have a choice before they act? (for instance, does Cathy, who has the title of "Monster" in the early chapters, have a choice for her actions in Chapter 50?)
2. Steinbeck uses symbolism and mythological themes in East of Eden. Choose either Cain figures or Abel figures and look at their behaviors in the novel. How do behaviors parallel the biblical text? Compare and contrast the biblical character with the ones in the novel.
3. The character of Lee helps develop and reflect the character and plot development of the novel. How is Lee neither evil nor good? What voice does he have in the novel and what is his purpose?
4. Steinbeck said, "I think everything else I have written has been, in a sense, practice for this...It has in it everything I have been able to learn about my art or craft or profession in all these years" (Lisca 275). Many people discuss the merit of including the Hamilton's story in the novel. Do you feel that Steinbeck successfully wove the two stories together? Why or why not? Evaluate the novel as a masterpiece. Defend your point of view
5. Steinbeck shows concern with free will and predestination in much of the novel. Do his characters have any choice in their actions?
  - a. Look at characters from the Trask family. Cite at least three examples which show that they did or did not have free choice in their decisions.
  - b. Look at the character of Sam Hamilton. Was he predestined to live the life he did? Find examples where Sam discusses his belief about free will. Give at least five examples. (Chapter 24 is a good starting place)
  - c. Look at the philosophical beliefs of a character in the novel (Lee, Samuel, Abra, and Steinbeck) How does each feel about the ideas of predestination and how is it depicted? (To find Steinbeck's philosophy look at journal #2.