

Gatewood's Classroom  
Summer Reading Activities

In order to process and extend your summer reading assignments, you need to complete the following activities. You will be given time in class to work in small groups and to discuss in full class the things required of you. All activities must be typed and answered as requested. You will write in paragraph form unless otherwise stated. You must use an MLA header for your activities.

**Part I**

1. Pick one character from *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* to analyze.

- \*List the character
- \*Explain whether the character is **static** or **dynamic** and **flat** or **round**
- \*Discuss at least one passage which illuminates the qualities and essence of the character—use diction to support your discussion and use page numbers to document your source material
- \*Discuss how the character functions to drive the storyline and theme of the novel

2. Choose one of the following quotes from *The Grapes of Wrath* to discuss.

- \*List the quote that you have chosen
  - \*Identify the speaker and the context of the quote
  - \*Explain how the quote relates to themes in the work—use diction/imagery from quote to support your response
- \*"The human spirit...Maybe all men got one big soul ever'body's a part of."
- \*"I was mean like a wolf. Now I'm mean like a weasel. When you're huntin' somepin' you're a hunter, an' you're strong...But when you get hunted—that's different...You ain't strong; maybe you're fierce, but you ain't strong."
- \*"I got thinkin' how we was holy when we was one thing, an' mankn' was only when it was one thing. An' it on'y got unholy when one mis'able little fella ot the bit in his teeth an' run off his own way...Fella like that but the holiness."
- \*"But the machine man, driving a dead tractor on land he does not know and love, understands only chemistry; and he is contemptuous of the land and of himself. When the corrugated iron doors are shut, he goes home, and his home is not the land."
- \*"When property accumulates in too few hands it is taken away. And that companion fact: when a majority of the people are hungry and cold they will take by force what they need. And the little screaming fact that sounds through all history : repression works only to strengthen and knit the repressed."
- \*"In the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage."
- \*"I'll be ever'where—wherever you look. Wherever they's a fight so hungry people can eat, I'll be there. Wherever they's a cop beatin' up a guy, I'll be there."

3. Tell me about one situation, event, or issue from either text that interested you.
- \*Give the context of the event in the novel—use language from the text in your response
  - \*Tell me what truths or conclusions you drew from the event
  - \*Find, print, and annotate an article which discusses your same situation, event, or issue
  - \*Synthesize your thoughts and the article's thoughts—do they agree/disagree? reinforce/contradict?—use language from the article to document your perspective
  - \*Cite the article in MLA format at the end of your response
4. Analyze one of the religious **allusions** in *The Grapes of Wrath*.
- \*Define allusion
  - \*List the allusion that you have chosen
  - \*Explain the allusion in terms of its religious **connotations**
  - \*Explain how the allusion relates to themes in the work
- |                 |                         |           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| *Rose of Sharon | *Land of Milk and Honey | *Jim Casy |
| *Exodus         | *Job                    | *Flood    |
5. **Annotate** each of the following passages.
- \*Define **diction** and **syntax**
  - \*Explain the author's intent/purpose/goal/theme of the passage in the context of the novel
  - \*Mark and annotate passage for **diction**, **syntax**, and **literary devices**
6. In *Yellow Raft in Blue Water*, the members of the family experience many stressors in their lives. Take “life crisis stress test.” Determine your stress score. What does this number say about you? How can work to ensure that it stays at an acceptable level?
7. *Yellow Raft in Blue Water* is filled with contemporary references to music and products. Film and television are now littered with product placements, also known as *cobranding*. List a film or television show which uses such contemporary references or product placements, and then explain how the references were employed.
8. Outline a sequel (or prequel) to one of the novels.
- \*Create a bulleted **list of ten** storyline and/or character developments—Each item must be complete statement and full concept/thought
  - \*Must be based on realities, content, and tone of existing work

