

CHAPTER III ANALYSIS

The Grapes of Wrath is a novel which presents the story of one farmer's family, driven from their fields by natural disasters and economic changes beyond anyone's control and their great journey in search of peace, security, and another home.

John Steinbeck provides the real description about human life, human character, and also the life problems themselves. Joads is the representative of a kind of family that may really exist in society. They perform their mental quality through their way of thinking, feelings, and actions that can be traced in the several elements of novel. The writer limits the scope of analysis on: plot, setting, and characterization by the reason that these elements are supposed to be representative enough to reveal the wholeness of impression.

III.1. Plot

In this analysis the writer will provide the plot of The Grapes of Wrath first. Plot here is the main frame in which the sequences of various events or incidents in The Grapes of Wrath pass through in cause and effect relationship. From the sequences of events which make the novel up, the writer will choose the plot which have the contents of conflict, namely :

1. The effect of drought upon the people who live in

Oklahoma is they can not breathe the fresh air.

2. The Joads' crops become worse in dry years.
3. The Joads and other sharecroppers are conversing with the owners about the ownership of the land.
4. The bank foreclosures and tractors are provided in their homeland.
5. The Joads have sold their property for supplies in the journey.
6. The Joads' grampa dies abruptly of a stroke in their tent.
7. Tom and Jim Casy repair the Wilson's car which breaks down.
8. Ma confronts with the policeman who stops at the tent and informs her the family must get out.
9. Noah Joad remain by the Colorado River instead of going with his family.
10. At midnight the Joads reach an inspection station in the desert where there is a demand to look over their possessions and to unload vehicles.
11. Ma refuses to allow the search, insisting that granma is sick.
12. Joads' granma dies when the family go out of the desert .
13. Ma is horrified by the group of hungry children who gather around her stew pot in which there is barely enough to feed her own family.

14. The earnest men who have understanding, knowledge, and skill experiment and nurture toward the perfect crop.
15. The price is too low to pay wages to pick rotten crop.
16. The children have pellagra from eating green grapes.
17. The people come with nets to fish for potatoes in the river.
18. Ma takes the hard-earned slip for one dollar, the joint earnings of the family for the day, to the man at the little store.
19. Casy is murdered in the Hooper Ranch.
20. Tom kills Casy's murderer.
21. The family have no works for three months.
22. Rosasharn's baby has born in the tent and finally dies.
23. The Joads's boxcar is bit by the flooded out.

III.2. S e t t i n g

The author describes the setting of The Grapes of Wrath harshly. He criticizes the nature situation and the society of Oklahoma a lot.

As we see in the first paragraph this novel describes the harshness of the nature situation of Oklahoma :

To the red country and part of the gray country of Oklahoma, the last rains came gently, and they did not cut the scarred earth...
In the last part of May the sky grew pale and the

clouds that had hung in high puffs for so long in the spring were dissipated. The sun flared down on the growing corn day after day until a line of brown spread along the edge of each green bayonet. (p.1).

By requiring that our first encounter be with nature or environment. The author try to portray the nature situation of Oklahoma which is very worst. This condition shows an unfriendly nature situation. The last part of May is the time of scarcity before harvest in Oklahoma. Because of the intensity of the heat of the sun day after the growing crop has damaged. The weather is too hot because the clouds has hung in the sky for so long and the rain doesn't fall again. It seems that Oklahoma is attacked by the drought violently. Nothing is good living in Oklahoma.

Other condition of Oklahoma's nature is seen in this passage as follows :

...And as the sharp sun struck day after day, the leaves of the young corn become less stiff and erect; they bent in a curve at first, and then, as the central ribs of strength grew weak, each leaf tilted downward... The air was thin and the sky more pale ; and everyday the earth paled (p.1).

Through the picture of those sentences the author expresses that the drought is big disaster upon the people. The growing plants are broken since there is no water to watering them. The leaves of growing corn are faded and then they are falling downd in the ground. Everyday the earth is portrayed pale as the sharp sunshine stings. The heat of the sun will destruct every living things. The sun burned the crops until their color

became brown and then drying. The drought must inflict a loss upon the farmers because a profit can not be taken from drying crops.

The nature of society of Oklahoma is also worse since the weather affects it :

...Houses were shut tight, and cloth wedged around doors and windows, but the dust came in so thinly that it could not be seen in the air, and it settled like pollen on the chairs and tables, on the dishes. The people brushed it from their shoulders. Little lines of dust lay at the door sills... All day the dust sifted down from the sky, and the next day it sifted down. And even blanket covered the earth. It settled on the corn, piled up on the tops of the fence posts, piled up on the wires ; it settled on roofs, blanketed the weeds and trees.
(p. 3).

If we examine the quotation above we see that the author try to describes how Oklahoma's society live in their land, how bad their houses are. Their houses are always closed because the dust came into the house so thinly and make their property dirty. It seems that their air is mixed by the dust. All day the dirty air spreads beyond their houses and plants, cover everything. The people have to clean up the dust from their body. The description of nature of Oklahoma's society is picturing uncomfortable place. It is unpleasant to go out of the house. The only thing they can get is the dust, dirty air and no fresh air anymore. The wind is assisting the dust to dominate the other natural elements of air, sky and sun.

The effect of an anguished physical state of that place can be seen below :

The people came out of their houses and smelled the hot stinging air and covered their noses from it. And the children came out of the houses, but they did not run or shout as they would have done after a rain. Men stood by their fences and looked at the ruined corn, drying fast now, only a little green showing through the film of dust (p. 3)

The people can not breath the fresh air. Nobody can leave their houses, if they were going out they must feel the hot stinging air. They have been trying to rescue their home from the accumulations of wind-blown dust which penetrates wherever air can go. The children can not play or run in the ground as they are used to do after a rain. The author portrays this condition cruelty. He comments how harsh the condition of that place is, even the growing corn or other plants are ruined by the drought. Nothing is good for the crops. The people sat still, thinking and figuring out what they have to do toward the drying crops. When man appears in this environment he seems powerless before the dust blow across the land. The time of scarcity before harvest is coming to Oklahoma and hurt the farm. The sharecroppers have no future in the region of blowing dust and sand, they should stubbornly struggle to remain in that damaged environment.

As the condition of Oklahoma's society become worse, one thing that need to be considered is their deteriorated and damaged house :

The small unpainted house was mashed at one corner, and it had been pushed off its foundation so that it slumped at an angle, its blind front windows pointing at a spot of sky well above the horizon. The fences were gone and the cotton grew in the dooryard and up against the house, and the cotton was about the shed barn. The outhouse lay on its side, and the cotton grew close against it. Where the dooryard had been pounded hard by the bare feet of children and by stamping horses' hooves and by the broad wagon wheels, it was cultivated now, and the dark green, dusty cotton grew (p. 41).

This passage shows that the author describes the low standard of their home. It is portrayed as small and unpainted house and its location is forced into a corner. Moreover the surroundings of the house is very bad and uncomfortable ; the fences has broken, the cotton grow up close against the house. As the nature situation of their environment cause trouble the people can not bear to live in that place. The cotton is cultivated by the wagon wheels but only the dark green and dusty cotton grow.

The sad situation of the Joads and other farm migrants in the road during their touring is also described in detail:

Two days the families were in flight, but on the third the land was too huge for them and they settled into a new technique of living; the highway became their home and movement their medium of expression. Little by little they settled into the new life (p. 178).

This is a condition that can make the migrants family become one family because they are lonely, they have all come from a place of sadness, worry, and defeat, and because they are all going to a new place. The loss of home become one loss, and the good time in the West is

one dream. And it might be a sick child throw despair into the hearts of twenty families, of a hundred people and that a birth there in a tent kept a hundred people quiet and fill them with the birth joy in the morning. When the cars is pulled into the camping places, each member of the family has duty and do it without instruction : children to gather wood, to carry water ; men to build tents and bring down the beds ; women to cook the supper and watch the family feed. They huddle together, they talk together, they share their lives, their food, and the things they hope in the new country.

Another condition showing the desperateness of the migrants can be seen as follows :

And then the dispossessed were drawn west - from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico; from Nevada and Arkansas families, tribes, dusted out, tractored out. Carloads, caravans, homeless and hungry; twenty thousand and fifty thousand and a hundred thousand and two hundred thousand. They streamed over the mountains, hungry and restless - restless as ants, scurrying to find work to do - to lift, to push, to pull, to pick, to cut - anything, any burden to bear, for food. The kids are hungry. We got no place to live. Like any scurrying for work, for food, and most of all for land (p. 256).

This paragraph describes how difficult life the migrants experience. The migrants from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada and Arkansas were going out of their homeland by carloads and caravans. The standard of their living is very low. They are still wishing for work, to have food for their children, and a shelter for their home. They are very suffering. They don't know how

long they will be able to keep their family alive at that rate. They are very poor and have not enough clothing to wear. Education is unknown for them because the only thing they must think is how to survive in that land.

As stated in the previous passage that the migrants' standard of living is very low, this paragraph below shows further information about their lives in the first camp. Hooverville :

The rag town lay close to the water ; and the houses were tents, and weed-thatched enclosures, paper houses, a great junk pile : The man drove his family in and became a citizen of Hooverville - always they were called Hooverville. The man put up his own tent as near to water as he could get ; or if he had no tent, he went to the city dump and brought back cartons and built a house of corrugated paper. And when the rains came the house melted and washed away. (p. 258).

The author portrays the migrants' condition which is miserable in Hooverville. When the people reach the camp they look for a place near the water, so they easily get water. Their houses were tents and it enclosed roof covering of dried weed. If they have no tents, they will build a house of corrugated paper or cartons. It can't imagine how their houses wash away and disappear when the rains come. This condition shows the lack of physical and spiritual satisfaction ; they will always worry their food, their house and they are unhappy.

The description of migrants' condition in the Weedpatch has reached its lowest depths in the year of drought and depression ;

The confessor bleated, "Skitters. All five of 'em. We been low on money. They et green grapes. They all five got the howlin' skitters. Run out ever' ten minutes."

...Here's Unit Four sufferin' shame 'cause you never tol'. Anybody can git the skitters."

The meek voice whined, "I jes' can't keep 'em from eatin' green grapes. An' they're a-gettin' worse all a time." (p. 348)

This passage describes the standard of their health which is very low, the children all have the skitters (diarrhea) because of eating green grapes. They are short of money. They can not buy fine grapes. They must be very hungry and they are forced to eat green grapes.

And also the children that suffer from pellagra must die because they don't eat the right kind of food ;

...There is a failure here that topples all our success. The fertile earth, the straight tree rows, the sturdy trunks, and the ripe fruit. And children dying of pellagra must die because a profit can not be taken from an orange. And coroners must fill in the certificate - died of malnutrition - because the food must rot, must be forced to rot (p. 385).

The author try to portray the lowest standard of their living. In this case the poverty and economic changes beyond anyone's control combine to ruin the migrants lives. Because the earnest men who have understanding, knowledge, and skill experiment, watch, and nurture toward the perfect crop, then that such quickening and ripening has been born and nourished to rot: cherries, prunes, pears, grapes. The price is too low to pay wages to pick them; the wine must be cheaply and cheatingly made, with rotten grapes and chemicals. The little

farmers will be inevitably overcome by debt. The decay spreads over the State and the failure hangs over like a great sorrow.

The bad situation is seen again when the migrant's place is flooded.

For two days the earth drank the rain, until the earth was full. Then puddles formed, and in the low places little lakes formed in the fields. The muddy lakes rose higher, and the steady rain whipped the shining water...(p. 477).

In this passage the author describes how hard the rain falls and make the place full of water. Little lakes is formed in the fields. Either dry or rainy season the bad weather always cause trouble in the earth and make it dirty.

The rain have ruined all the migrant's things as described in the paragraph below :

...The little gray tents stood in lakes. And at last the people had to move. Then the cars wouldn't start because the wires were shorted; and if the engines would run, deep mud engulfed the wheels. And the people waded away, carrying their wet blankets in their arms. They splashed along, carrying the children, carrying the very old, in their arms. And if the barn stood on high ground, it was filled with people, shivering and hopeless (p. 478).

These conditions are very worst since they have no shelter to protect from the downpour. During that day and night the men slept soddenly, side by side on the boxcar door. In the boxcars they watch with panic and indecision as the water rises around their vehicles and toward the floors of the boxcars. The water was six inches deep in the car before the flood spread even over

the embankment and moved into the cotton field on the other side. They always try to stop the flood. Now without separation the two families are one. They have to move to higher ground and stand there. The family huddle on the platforms, silent and fretful.

III.3. Characterization

There are three characters that are going to be analyzed since they are enough to support the analysis of Joads' survival. They are the members of the Joad family; Tom Joad, Ma Joad, and their reverend, Jim Casy.

III.3.1. Tom Joad

Tom is a central character, and perhaps one who develops most and survives in the novel. He is the second son of Joad family. He is also kind, sometimes witty and potentially strong in the moral and intuitive sense like his mother's. He is not over thirty. He is a good looking man, a strong man, and a tall man. He is individualistic and quick to anger if he feels he is being pushed around. Tom has just been released from the Oklahoma State Prison. He has killed a man in a self-defense. It was not his fault. He and the man are drunk at a dance. He feels that there is a knife in him and try to defend himself.

He becomes unconscious a disciple and a fighter and Casy becomes his teacher. He will quickly find a way to make the powerful machine, the red transport truck, work for him as he inveigles the truck driver into giving him a ride to his family's farm. Ma is very proud of him because he is better than his brother and sister as Ma said :

"I knowed from the time you was a little fella... They's some folks that's just theirsself an' nothing more. There's Al-he's jus' a young fella after a girl. You wasn't never like that, Tom... Everything you do is more'n you... You're spoke for" (p.389).

He will be a leader for everyman, he crawls into a cave of vines, the womb of the earth to experience his rebirth, who emerges committed not to lead the people somewhere but to make his place the garden it might be.

In effect Jim Casy becomes his teacher, converting him by word and by his own example to the idea that a man can not just look after himself but in the spirit of compassion is obligated to help others. Although he is still an outlaw of society at the end of the book, his status is actually changed: he is fighting for social amelioration, a better way of life for his people and for all struggling people. Finally Tom leaves his family to become a labor organizer and activist, to do something not only for the Joads but all oppressed worker.

III.3.2. Ma Joad

Ma is probably the ideal mother figure. She is

heavy, but not fat. She is a powerful though unassuming figure in the Joad clan. She has a sense of humor and on occasion a kind of girlishness. She is patient in her unending labors, and in her determination to keep down her fear and encourage joy to her family. She becomes one of the leader of the family. Ma jokes communicatively with Tom and Jim Casy. Ma is too intuitive and she is probably the most important symbol of love in the novel. Ma is a pragmatist, who takes things as they happen, and then of course acts from the love principle.

In the family unit Ma in particular is stubbornly determined to preserve, although she sees it disintegrating around her with the death of grampa, granma, the disappearance of Noah to the enticing of the Colorado River, Al to marriage. Her matriarchal position enables her to understand the psychological and therefore real force of separate persons banded together, of the protection and power which might come out of group action. She does what she has to, staggeringly, when granma dies as they cross the desert, lying all night beside the dead woman until she is certain that the family is safely across. She walks within the magic circle of brotherly love. Yet she can act, and act vigorously, in opposition to the menfolk when it is for the sake of preserving the family unit.

She seems to have experienced all possible tragedy

in the land which is crushed by drought and depression. She knows how to accept, to welcome her position in the Joad family unit and the strong place that could not be taken. And since her husband and the children could not know hurt or fear unless she acknowledged hurt and fear, she has practiced denying them in herself. And since, when a joyful thing happened, they look to see whether joy is on her, it is her habit to build up laughter.

Ma's anger and violence are aroused when there is real crisis involving preserving and protecting her family; she rises up against Pa with a jack handle to prevent him from separating the two loaded cars as they travel, she grabs an iron skillet and is about to take a swing of indignation at the cold and contemptuous uniformed stranger who intrudes upon the privacy of the tent, and she takes her solitary initiative in the middle of the desert at night to prevent the inspectors from unloading the truck and discovering granma's death before they are safely across the desert.

Ma is a brave woman. Ma has confronted with the absurdly high prices of the company store and the defensive of the clerk, Ma directs her anger for an instant at the man behind the counter before seeing beyond to the larger picture:

She looked up, smiling a little. "Ever'body comes in talks like me, is mad?"

He hesitated for a moment, "Yes, ma'am."

..."Doin' a dirty thing like this. Shames ya, don't it ? Got to act flip, huh?" Her voice was gentle. The clerk watched her, fascinated..."That's how it is," Ma said. (p. 414).

III.3.3. Jim Casy

He is the ex-preacher that is revealed from the first as an introspective man who retains the respect of community.

Casy ran his fingers nervously. "I got to tell you, I ain't a preacher no more. If me jus' bein' glad to be an' bein' thankful for people that's kind and generous if that's enough - why, I'll say that kinda grace. Bu t I ain't a preacher no more. (p. 87).

He is Joads' friend who will go to California with them.

Jim Casy, who is the Christ-figure prophet speaks thoughts which reflect various philosophics. Jim, of course has discovered his someplace to go. He has to go to the folks are going. Insisting that he will never preach again, he tries to learn about humanism. He is Tom's teacher. By sharing a common problem of social adjustment with Tom, he becomes a force to prevent a possible false solution on Tom's part through delinquency. He does in fact lead and comfort the people ; and he lays down his life for Tom Joad, who has in effect become his disciple and eventually takes over work for social betterment.

III.4. The study of Joads' survival in The Grapes of Wrath.

Most of the conflict of Joad family appear as a result natural disaster ;

To the red country and part of the gray country of Oklahoma, the last rains came gently, and they did not cut the scarred earth...

In the last part of May the sky grew pale and the clouds that had hung in high puffs for so long in the spring were dissipated. The sun flared down on the growing corn day after day until a line of brown spread along the edge of each green bayonet.
(p.1).

The nature situation of Oklahoma inhabited by the Joads and other sharecroppers is very worst. The weather is too hot because the clouds has hung in the sky for so long and the rain doesn't fall again. It seems that Oklahoma is attacked by the drought voilently. The time of scarcity before harvest have ruined the Joads' lives. Dry years have made farming more difficult, no one is to blame for the weather. The intensity of the heat of the sun damages the crops so the people can not take the profit from it. They must be starving. They should stubbornly struggle to remain in the deteriorated place.

Moreover the condition of their houses and environment describe uncomfortable place ;

...houses were shut tight and cloth wedged around doors and windows, but the dust came in so thinly that it could not be seen in the air, and it settled like pollen on the chairs and tables, on the dishes. The people brushed it from their shoulders. Little lines of dust lay at the door sills...

All day the dust sifted down from the sky, and the next day it sifted down. And even blanket covered the earth. It settled on the corn piled up on the

tops of the fence posts, piled up on the wires ; it settled on roofs, blenketed the weeds and trees.
(p. 3).

Their house is always closed. They have been trying to rescue thier home from the accumulataions of wind-blown dust which penetrates wherever air can go. The people must clean the dust on their windows and door sills. The people are caught up in its destructive blown for the dust is all pervading. The word 'dust' which is repeated again and again in this novel reinforces economic decline which will accumulate into disaster, and deteriorating morale which will at length split up the family unit.

As the nature situation of Oklahoma cause trouble the conflict appears as a result economic changes beyond anyone's control ;

...if a bank or a finance company owned the land, the owner man said, The Bank - or the Company - needs - wants - insists - must have - as though the Bank or the Company were a monster, with though and feeling, which had ensnared them. (p. 32).
... a bank or a company can't do that, because those creatures don't breathe air, don't eat side-meat. They breathe profits ; they eat the interest on money. If they don't get it, they die the way you die without air, without side-meat. (p. 33).

Even the bank foreclosures which is provided in their homeland cause economic changes and force the emigration. The Joads' and other sharecroppers as the tenants know what drying cotton does to the land ; robs it, sucks all the blood out of it. They can hold the land if they can just eat and pay taxes. They can do that until their crops fail one day and they have to borrow

money from the bank. If a bank or finance company own the land, the bank or the company must have stronger thought and feeling and take no responsibility because the tenants are men and slaves while the banks are machines and masters all the same time. The banks take a profits ; they eat the interest on money, and they take possession of the property that is bought with the borrowed money. The tenants can not take less share of the crops because they are half starving now and the kids are hungry all the time. The tenant system won't work any more. And also the tractors begin to cut through dooryards and doorways replacing men and horses to make tenant farmers useless ;

...diesel tractors, pattering while they stood idle ; they thundered when they moved, and then settled down to a droning roar. Snubnosed monsters, raising the dust and sticking their snouts into it, straight down the country, across the country, through fences, through dooryards in and out of gullies in straight lines. They did not run on the ground, but on their own roadbeds. They ignored hills and gulches, water courses, fences, houses. (p. 36-37).

The tractors will bump the houses down and make the environment dirty. Across the dooryard the tractor cut and the air and the ground vibrate with its thunder. The tractor driver can not control it, it goes straight across country, cutting through a dozen farms and straight back. One man on a tractor can take the place of twelve or fourteen families. The owner pay them a wage and take all the crops. By seing conditions like here drought and poverty combine to deprive many farmers in

their land. The Joads have no future in the deteriorated land.

Again the conflict occurs during their journey to California ;

And then the dispossessed were drawn west - from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico ; from Nevada and Arkansas families, tribes, dusted out tracted out. Carloads, caravans, homeless and hungry ; twenty thousand and fifty thousand and a hundred thousand and two hundred thousand. They streamed over the mountains, hungry and restless - restless as ants, scurrying to find work to do - to lift, to push, to pull, to pick, to cut - anything, any burden to bear, to food. The kids are hungry. We got no place to live. Like any scurrying for work, for food, and most of all for land. (p. 256).

The Joads and their fellow migrants are driven from their land going to California in search of peace, security and another home. They have sold their remaining possessions and pack up everything for leaving Oklahoma. The families who become the migrants now go by carloads or caravans. They are homeless, tired and hungry. They are still wishing for work, to have food for their children and a shelter for their home. They are very suffering because they always worry about their needs and how to keep them alive.

Joads' condition in the migrants' place become worse since the bad weather either dry or rainy season cause trouble toward them.

...the man put up his own tent as near to water as he could get ; or if he had no tent, he went to the city dump and brought back cartons and built a house of corrugated paper. And when the rains came the house melted and washed away. (p. 258).

When the rains come, their tent or house of corrugated paper melt, wash away and dissappear. During that day and night the men sleep soddenly, side by side on the boxcar door. The families are very hungry and unhappy. This condition shows a lack of physical and spiritual satisfaction. When the water is six inches deep in the car they have to flee to the higher ground.

... The little gray tents stood in lakes. At last the people had to move. Then the cars wouldn't start because the wires were shorted ; and if the engines would run, deep mud engulfed the wheels. And the people waded away, carrying their wet blankets in their arms. They splashed along, carrying the children, carrying the very old, in their arms. And if the barn stood on high ground, it was filled with people, shivering and hopeless. (p. 478).

As the water rises around their vehicles and toward the floors of the boxcars the family huddle on the platforms silent and fretful. They are not going to work for some time. The children cry with hunger, and there is no food. They splash out through the water, to the towns, to the country stores, to the relief offices, to beg for food, to beg for relief, to try, to steal, to lie. Then the hungry men crowd the alleys behind the stores to beg for bread, to beg for rotting vegetables, to steal when they can.

The social situation of California can burden the Joad family with the development ownership of the land which is in the hands of a few large owners.

...the men who work in the fields, the owners of the little orchads, watch and calculate. The year is heavy with produce. An the men are proud, for of

their knowledge they can make the year heavy.
(p. 383).

...and the men of knowledge have worked, have considered and the fruit is rotting on the ground, and the decaying mash in the wine vat is poisoning the air. And taste the wine - no grape flavor at all, just sulphur and tannic acid and alcohol.
(p.384).

In this case they have a conflict with their society. The earnest men who have understanding, knowledge and skill experiment, watch and nurture toward the perfect crop, then the quickening and ripening plant has been born and nourished to rot such as cherries, prunes, pears and grapes. The price is too low to pay wages to pick them. The good wine can not be made. The little farmers will be inevitably overcome by debt. Men who can make the seed fertile and big can not find a way to let the hungry people eat their produce. The people come for miles to take the fruit but it can not be taken. A few small land owners are at the mercy of the large land owners.. Such crimes against nature and men are bitter.

During the journey the Joads face constant reduction as a family, losing first grampa to death, losing the first son Noah Joad in the enticing waters of the Colorado River, Al to marriage Aggie Wainwright and still stay at Hooverville instead of going with his family, and finally Tom leaves his family to become a labor organizer and activist, to do something not only for the Joads but all oppressed worker. Ma Joad seems to have experienced all possible tragedy in the land which

accept her position in the Joad family unit and strong place that could not be taken. Yet she can act in opposition to the menfolk when it is for the sake of preserving the family unit. Ma's anger and violence are aroused when there is real crisis involving preserving and protecting her family ; she rises up against Pa with a jack handle to prevent him from separating the two loaded cars as they travel, she grabs an iron skillet and is about to take a swing of indignation at the cold and contemptuous uniformed stranger who intrudes upon the privacy of the tent. In the middle of the desert at night the inspectors try to unload the truck and Ma takes her solitary initiative to prevent the inspectors from it. The Joads discover painfully all items are overpriced at the company store in comparison to town shopping, and the dollar is easily eaten up in one night's dinner. Moreover Rosasharn's baby who has been born died and it is taken in the apple box and floated into the river. She is very sad with this situation and make her weak.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION