

Grapes of Wrath  
Squib Assignment  
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Grapes of Wrath is a film that captures the devastation and poverty of America's Great Depression era. Viewers are engulfed in human tragedy of astronomical proportions throughout the entire film, which focuses highly upon the Joad family's deprivation of their human decency until the very end. Following the Joad's on a cross-country journey, family members drop like flies from such reasons as health problems and broken hearts. Men tell stories of helplessly watching their children starve to death, one man deserts his pregnant wife, another murders, and another is murdered. It's a struggle of the classes, the elite oppressing the poor, and a portrayal of the undying spirit of humanity represented in the poor's fight for their right to life and their refusal to surrender the fight. The production values are a level one; excellent cinematography, eloquent lighting, and masterful framing are integrated with a compelling story, leaving viewers to ponder their own vulnerability and relative position in contemporary society.