

Read only one of the following books and complete its guide.

**Reading Guide for *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*
by Henry David Thoreau**

Respond to the following questions or directives in complete sentences within full paragraphs. Make sure your answers are typed double-spaced. You should use 1½ inch margins and a font of 12.

1. Why did Thoreau go into the woods? Provide at least three quotes from the book to support your answer.
2. Describe the home Thoreau built. How it was constructed? What materials did he use? How did he get these materials?
3. What did he eat? How did he obtain this sustenance?
4. What is Thoreau's opinion of Concord and its people? Provide at least three quotes from the book to support your answer.
5. How does Thoreau describe the sounds of woods? Contrast it with his description of the sound of the railroad.
6. What is the meaning of the ant battle?
7. What is the significance of the "icemen?" What do they represent?
8. Describe the pond in spring.
9. What did Thoreau find in the woods? In other words, what were the results of his experiment in living? (Warning, this is the most important question in this guide)
10. Why did Thoreau leave the woods?

Reading Guide for *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

Respond to the following questions or directives in complete sentences within full paragraphs. Make sure your answers are typed double-spaced. You should use 1½ inch margins and a font of 12.

1. Describe the Joad family. Where do they live at the beginning of the novel? What is their profession and social status? Are they honest? Hardworking?
2. After his release from prison, what has happened to Tom's home?
3. What caused the Dust Bowl?
4. When the Joads take to the "mother road," what omen foreshadows their experience in California? Explain.
5. Describe the situation the Joads find when they get to California.
6. Find five examples of exploitation (where one person improperly uses another for economic gain) in the novel. Cite specific characters. What do these characters all have in common?
7. Find five examples of brotherhood (where people work together to help others or a greater community) in the novel. Cite specific characters. What do these characters all have in common?
8. Why does Tom let Jim get arrested?
9. What is Tom's political/economic philosophy at the end of the novel (Warning, this is the most important question in this guide)? Explain this philosophy.
10. What happens to Rose of Sharon's baby at the end of the novel? What is its significance?