

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Grapes of Wrath as a primary source

Grade – 8th

Length of class period – 43min Students should have watched the video before this lesson.

Inquiry –

How do the characters in John Steinbeck’s “Grapes of Wrath” exemplify the conditions of the migrant farmers of the Depression Era?

Can a movie based on a novel be a primary source?

Objectives –

Students will analyze the video Grapes of Wrath, comparing it with news clips from 1934 about the dust bowl, noting the dates of the novel and the movie.

Materials –

Video of Grapes of Wrath 1940, starring Henry Fonda, rereleased by Studio Classics, with Movie News: 3 Drought Reports from 1934 and Outtakes.

OR

Any copy of that movie, starring Henry Fonda AND clips of newsreels about farmers from the 1930s or still images from Google images.

Whiteboard, markers

Student notebooks or paper, and pencils or pens

Activities –

(Students should have watched the video before lesson)

Through question and answer, students will recount the story and /or significant events while teacher records answers on board and students copy.

Students will review selected parts of video to compare with selected Movietone Newsreels noting similarities in language use, clothing, buildings, etc.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Students’ participation in the Q&A, students’ notes and written answers to the two inquiry questions.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards -

2.2 Interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.