Questions for Chapter 18 of *The Grapes of Wrath*

Name: ______________________________

1. What happens to the water? How is water made a part of the capitalist system?

2. What is the major obstacle (land type) to begin the chapter? What is seen which causes some anxiety?

3. How is this land type countering their visions of California? How do the men who join the Joads in the river also countering their visions?

4. What warnings do the Joads receive from the men in the river?

5. How is this situation similar to Oklahoma?

6. According to Jim Casy, when does a fellow “don’t give a damn”? What is he trying to say?

7. Why does Jim Casy think the owners need so much land?

8. Why does the man in the river say, “I shouldn’ of did that”?

9. How could bathing in the water be a biblical reference? How does it affect Noah? What does this signify (or represent or become symbolic of)?

10. How does Noah’s decision violate Jim Casy’s ideas?
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11. Ma gives advice to Rose of Sharon, which matches the advice given by the man in the river. What is it?

12. What does Ma mean when she says, “that’s somepin to you lonely and away...an’ this here tent is alone in the worl’”?

13. What is the “thudding sound” from inside the tent where the “exhortations” are taking place? How do you know?

14. What does Ma say Jim Casy is getting “roun’ to thinkin’”? What does this mean? What does this reject?

15. Explain Ma’s reaction to being called an “Okie”.

16. What change in Ma does Tom notice? Why has she changed in this way?

17. What does the following quotation mean for the Joads: “He says we ain’t home now. We’re in California, and they do what they want”? How could this be applied to modern society?

18. Ma mentions a few things that have changed. What are they? What do they reveal?

19. Sairy Wilson says to the preacher, “You got a God.” What does she mean? What is his god?

20. How does the helper of the kid in white talk about the Joads? What does this attitude reveal?
21. How has Connie’s and Rose of Sharon’s dream changed? How do you feel about their dream?

22. Of what does Jim Casy say he is sure? How do you react to this?

23. How does Jim Casy define a sin? What does this mean?

24. How does Jim Casy determine whether or not John’s sin is a sin? How is this an example of Transcendentalism?

25. Why is Ma acting so strangely (in Tom’s view)? How does Ma use Granma’s death to help the family?

26. Why does the family get so excited when looking down into the valley?

27. Why does Jim Casy say he fears Ma? What does he mean by this? Is this a positive or a negative?

28. Pa mentions how Tom is changing. How is he changing? What is different about him?

29. How is California already a hardship despite the Joads’ hopes?