

ARCHETYPAL PASSAGES IN *THE GRAPES OF WRATH*

Directions: For 5 of the following passages, provide an interpretation of how the passage reflects a certain archetype we have studied. Be sure not only to identify the archetype but also to interpret how this archetype applies to this passage.

1. "The cars of the migrant people crawled out of the side roads onto the great cross-country highway, and they took the migrant way to the West. In the daylight they scuttled like bugs to the westward; and as the dark caught them, they clustered like bugs near to shelter and to the water. And because they were lonely and perplexed, because they had all come from a place of sadness and worry and defeat, and because they were going to a new mysterious place, they huddled together; they talked together; they shared their lives, their food, and the things they hoped for in the new country. Thus it might be that one family camped near a spring, and another camped for the spring and for company, and a third because two families had pioneered the place and found it good. And when the sun went down, perhaps twenty families and twenty cars were there." - chapter 17

2. "Her full face was not soft; it was controlled, kindly. Her hazel eyes seemed to have experienced all possible tragedy and to have mounted pain and suffering like steps into a high calm and a superhuman understanding. She seemed to know, to accept, to welcome her position, the citadel of the family, the strong place that could not be taken. . . .And from her great and humble position in the family she had taken dignity and a clean calm beauty. From her position as healer, her hands had grown sure and cool and quiet; from her position as arbiter she had become as remote and faultless in judgment as a goddess."

3. "'Then I'll be aroun' in the dark. I'll be ever'where---wherever you look. Wherever they's a fight so hungry people can eat, I'll be there. Wherever they's a cop beatin' up a guy, I'll be there. If Casy knowed, why, I'll be in the way guys yell when they're mad an' - I'll be in the way kids laugh when they're hungry an' they know supper's ready. An' when our folks eat the stuff they raise an' live in the houses they build-why, I'll be there."

4. "A jackrabbit got caught in the lights and he bounced along ahead, cruising easily, his great ears flopping with every jump. Now and then he tried to break off the road, but the wall of darkness thrust him back. Far ahead bright headlights appeared and bore down on them. The rabbit hesitated, faltered, then turned and bolted toward the lesser lights of the Dodge. There was a small soft jolt as he went under the wheels. The oncoming car swished by."

5. "The banks were machines and masters all at the same time." "It's the monster. The bank isn't like a man. . . . [the tractor driver is] a part of the monster, a robot in the seat..."

6. "So easy [is the tractor's work] that the wonder goes out of the work, so efficient that the wonder goes out of land and the working of it, and with the wonder the deep understanding and the relation."

7. "Casy turned to Tom. 'Funny how you fellas can fix a car. Jus' light right in an' fix her. I couldn't fix no car, not even now when I seen you do it'
'Got to grow into her when you're a little kid,' Tom said. 'It ain't jus' knowin.' It's more'n that. Kids now can tear down a car 'thout even thinkin' about it.' "