**East of Eden**

**While reading**

**Introduction, pages v–ix**

1. Write the questions for the following answers.
   - a. On the never-ending contest in ourselves between good and evil.
   - b. They were looking for better opportunities in the new country.
   - c. 1865.
   - d. Almost 1.5 million.
   - e. It is based on a journey he made across America with his dog.

2. Are these statements about the information contained in the Introduction true (T) or not true (NT)?
   - a. East of Eden is a true story. (T)
   - b. Steinbeck worked as a journalist during the Second World War. (T)
   - c. Steinbeck graduated from Stanford University. (T)
   - d. Steinbeck believed that everybody is born either good or evil. (T)
   - e. Steinbeck wrote a number of books about the American poor. (T)

**Chapters 1–3, pages 1–16**

**While reading**

3. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions. Place a tick in the space provided.
   - a. What was it about the climate in the Salinas valley that made life difficult for farmers?
     1. There was too much sunshine.
     2. There was never enough rain.
     3. The weather conditions were unstable.
   - b. Why did people trust Samuel Hamilton?
     1. He was a good listener.
     2. He never drank whiskey.
     3. He never made any money.
   - c. Why wasn’t Samuel Hamilton a good businessman?
     1. He was too lazy.
     2. He was too kind-hearted.
     3. He never had any good ideas.

**Chapters 4–6, pages 16–47**

**While reading**

4. Complete the following description of Cathy Ames by filling each of the gaps with a suitable word.
   Cathy Ames was born ........... . But nobody realized because she was so ........... . She had ........... hair and a small ........... face. Her eyes were blue and set wide ........... and this made her seem .......... .

5. Choose the correct words in italics to complete each of the following sentences.
   - a. Cathy started a false rumor / story about one of her teachers.
   - b. When she drank alcohol, Cathy became very jealous / aggressive.
   - c. Adam / Charles took Cathy’s sleeping medicine.
   - d. Cathy was happy / unhappy when she found out she was pregnant.
   - e. Cathy wanted / didn’t want to move to California with Adam.
   - f. The deputy sheriff suspected that Adam might have kidnapped / murdered his wife.

6. Who is who? Match the characters in the box with the descriptions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adam Trask</th>
<th>Cathy Ames</th>
<th>Horace Quinn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faye</td>
<td>Samuel Hamilton</td>
<td>Lee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   - a. runs a whorehouse.
   - b. works as Adam Trask’s servant.
   - c. goes to work for Faye.
   - d. loves Cathy with all his heart.
   - e. delivers Cathy’s babies.
East of Eden

Chapters 7–10, pages 47–67
While reading
7 Match the beginnings (A) and ends (B) of the sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a Samuel hit Adam</td>
<td>1 at Samuel Hamilton’s funeral.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b Kate told Adam</td>
<td>2 because he wasn’t looking after his children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c Caleb had a secret weapon</td>
<td>3 but her legs and feet had thickened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d There were a lot of people</td>
<td>4 but his face remained expressionless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e Adam looked at his wife</td>
<td>5 on their mother’s grave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f Abra suggested the boys put flowers</td>
<td>6 that Charles was the father of the twins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g Kate was still pretty</td>
<td>7 with which to hurt his brother.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapters 11–13, pages 68–85
While reading
8 Which of these sentences are true (T) and which of them are not true (NT)? Correct the ones which are not true.

| a | Aron overhears his father talking to Lee about his dead uncle’s will. |
| b | Kate asks Adam for half of the money in Charles’s will. |
| c | Lee realized he didn’t want to run a bookstore when he got off the train. |
| d | Rabbit Holman didn’t realize who Cal was when he took him to the whorehouse. |
| e | Cal is worried that he will end up being just like his father. |
| f | Cal borrows $30,000 dollars from Adam to go into business with Will. |

Chapters 14–15, pages 85–98
While reading
9 Put the following events in the order of the time at which they occurred.

| a | Adam had a stroke. |
| b | Abra told Cal she loved him. |
| c | Aron was killed. |
| d | Kate committed suicide. |
| e | Aron came across Cal wrapping the gift. |
| f | Cal took Aron to meet their mother. |
| g | The family ate Thanksgiving dinner. |
| h | Aron enlisted in the army. |
| i | Cal burned the money. |

10 Who is speaking? To whom are they speaking? What are they talking about?

| a | “I don’t want to go on at college.” |
| b | “I wanted you to have the money to make up for your loss.” |
| c | “It’s a surprise. But you’ll be interested.” |
| d | “Oh, my poor darling!” |
| e | “He hasn’t come home for two nights.” |
| f | “Now you have some reason to walk away from me.” |
| g | “I’m going to ask you to do a much harder thing.” |

After reading
11 Work with another student. Talk about your opinions on how the story ends by asking and answering the following questions about the characters in the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adam</th>
<th>Charles</th>
<th>Cal</th>
<th>Aron</th>
<th>Cathy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| a | How does the story end for these characters? |
| b | Do you think the characters get what they deserve? |
| c | Which of the above characters do you feel most sympathy for? |
| d | Which of the characters is your least favorite? |
1 In which order do the following things happen. Write the numbers.
   a ☐ Adam names his sons Aaron and Caleb.
   b ☐ Adam tells his brother that he wants to move to California.
   c ☐ Adam Trask falls in love with Cathy Ames.
   d ☐ Adam Trask is sent to prison for being a vagrant.
   e ☐ Cathy goes to work for a woman called Faye.
   f ☐ Charles Trask moves to Washington to become a military advisor.
   g ☐ Samuel Hamilton helps deliver Cathy's babies.

2 Who is who? Complete the following sentences by filling in each of the blanks with the name of one of the characters from the box. Sometimes, there may be more than one correct answer, so compare your opinion with that of another student.

Cyrus Trask  Adam Trask  Charles Trask
Cathy Ames  Samuel Hamilton  Aron Trask
Caleb Trask  Horace Quinn  Lee

a ………. realizes it is too late for him to marry and start a family.
b ………. is knowledgeable about medicine and the Californian countryside.
c The father of Aron and Caleb is probably ……….
d The two characters who do the most to help Adam Trask are ……… and ……….
e The first of these characters to die in the story is ………
f The characters who spent time in the army are ………, ……… and ……….
g The brother who most resembles his mother is ……….

3 Choose the best alternative title for each of the following chapters. Compare your answers with those of another student.

1 Chapter 5 …
   a The Power of Love
   b Lee's disappointment
   c The Move to California

2 Chapter 11 …
   a The Death of Charles Trask
   b Adam's Difficult Decision
   c Kate's Good Fortune

4 Are these sentences true (T) or not true (NT)?
   a ……… All the women who marry a man from the Trask family end up committing suicide.
   b ……… Adam and Charles Trask were rivals for the love of Cathy Ames.
   c ……… Charles Trask and Caleb Trask both felt their father did not love them.
   d ……… The only person who scares Cathy Ames is Samuel Hamilton.
   e ……… Adam's Chinese servant is able to speak perfect English.
   f ……… At the end of the book, it seems that Adam is able to forgive his son Cal.

5 Fill in the gaps with ONE suitable word from the box.

army  description  early  favor  generations  harmony  introduced  jealous  late  marriage  parallels  prostitute  rivals  tragic  younger

East of Eden is set in the ……… nineteenth century and the ……… twentieth century. The novel tells the stories of two ……… of brothers. There are many ……… to be drawn between the novel and the biblical story of Cain and Abel. The novel begins with a ……… of the Salinas valley in California, and we are ……… to the character of Samuel Hamilton who is to play an important role later in the story. The sons of Cyrus Trask do not have an easy relationship. The father seems to ……… his elder son and this makes the younger son very ………. The elder son, Adam, joins the ………, and when he returns home after more than ten years away, the brothers live together in relative ……… until a beautiful and badly beaten woman turns up at their door. The elder brother falls in love with the Cathy and ends up marrying her. The ……… is a disaster because Cathy doesn't love him and decides to leave him as soon as she can, preferring to live as a ………. Adam and Cathy have twin sons, and the story of these boys is very similar to that of their father and uncle. They are ……… for their father's affections and the jealousy felt by the ……… son ends up having ……… consequences.