[redacted]

Paul H. Prochnow

A Novel Against Exploitation

The significance of the Joad family in The Grapes of Wrath is enlarged by John Steinbeck by making this one family representative of the families that were caught up in Okie migration and the migrant labor exploitation of the depression in California. Steinbeck picked, or fabricated a family and subjected it to all the experiences that he had observed while he was studying and living with these people. Besides doing what is in the main part an ethnological study of a beaten and dispossessed exploited minority of American history, he weaves into his story subtle classical themes of nature, the journey to a promised land, the dignity of man, and the nature of the family.

The Joads are people of the land and it is something more than mere dirt to them, nor is it a commodity to be turned into a line on a corporate farm's profit chart. Due to thier lack of church-going-religiosity the land in a sense becomes thier religion to nearly the extent that it is thier life. The Joads know nothing but how to work the land and have done so for thier whole lives, and as the land decides if they are to live or die, it is extrapolated into more than a mere way of making a living and is truly thier life. Although they can not express thier invisible bonds to the land they feel them and assume certain "rights" to work it. This relationship to the land is established in what the Joads say, which are mostly gripes against the banks that have disspossed them. Grampa is the strongest in the family in his feelings about going to Califomnia and express a real joy in his picture of the paradisical garden he sees; "Gonna get me a big bunch a grapes

antecedent?

pronoun reference?

sp

Notice that your paragraph shifts subject here.