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I might have appreciated this read more if I read at an earlier age.2024 readJune 12, 2008*Review contains a partial spoiler*If you read enough reviews, you'll notice that most of the people who gave this book 1 or 2 stars had to read the book for a high school class. Most of the 4- and 5-star ratings came from those who read it as adults. I recommend listening to those who read it as adults. Many people hate the ending, but I thought it was great. Creepy? Yes, but there was an immense amount of beauty and generosity in that creepy little ending. At one point in the story, Ma (of Rosasharn) that it ain't all about her (most high school kids think everything is all about them, which is probably one reason they couldn't enjoy this book or most other classics they are forced to read). Realizing this at the very end made Rosasharn crack her first smile in ages (at least that's my take on the mysterious smile). I wasn't disappointed in the lack of closure at the end, because the closure came in the middle when Ma said, "Rich fellas come up an' they die, an' their kids ain't no good an' they die out. But we keep a'comin'. We're the people that live. They can't wipe us out; they can't lick us. We'll go on forever, Pa, 'cause we're the people." So you know they will be fine whether life continues to be a struggle or not. They will be better off than the rich man with the million acres they talked about - "If he needs a million acres to make him feel rich, seems to me he needs it 'cause he feels awful poor inside hisself, and if he's poor in hisself, there ain't no million acres gonna make him feel rich, an' maybe he's disappointed that nothin' he can do'll make him feel rich." Another good quote is "I'm learnin' one thing good...If you're in trouble or hurt or need - go to the poor people. They're the only ones that'll help - the only ones." I saw a special on 20/20 around Christmas time about how the lower class are more generous overall than the middle and upper class, so this still applies today. Would anyone like my savings account? I think I'm going to give poverty a shot :)May 19, 2022The Grapes of Wrath is the kind of book that pulls you in and refuses to let go. There's just something completely gripping about the way the narrative begins and the way each sentence is put together, it pulls and pulls with its expertly rendered descriptions that do wonders at capturing a landscape and a people undergoing great change. I didn't want to stop reading, but I also took the time to savour each chapter because I knew that I could only read this for the first time once. So, I stretched it out, I made it last longer than I wanted to, and for me this is one of the surest signs that I was reading a truly great novel. There's so much to talk about here. There's so much brilliance to discuss and so many themes, characters and motifs that warrant reflection. But I want to keep it simple. I want to talk about the things I liked most about the writing. Firstly, I like the naturalness of it. I like the way Steinbeck's words felt authentic and real. Now let me explain, he does wonders at capturing the essence of time and the ever-changing nature of it. And he is also remarkably talented when it comes to capturing the bigger picture. It would be easy to talk about the plot here and what pushes the story forward, though that is just half of the power the writing possesses. Steinbeck interposes his narrative with chapters that capture the heart of a nation: they capture the essence of America and the great American dream. They help to weave together a sense of collective consciousness that establishes exactly what the characters are feeling against the backdrop of the Great Depression. He is setting the scene in a way that creates a sense of what the characters and people of this time were experiencing on a large scale. And it's intoxicating. It's a storytelling device that brought the novel to life in an incandescent way. Aside from this, reading *The Grapes of Wrath* from an ecocritical perspective is quite rewarding. Above all it is a novel of migration, of discovering new landscapes after mass crop death: it is a novel of changing environments and changing circumstances. It's also about ecology, about man's ability to continuously affect his environment in largely detrimental ways. And because of this there is a stress on social community, on working together and learning to coexist and fit into the ecosystem and society at large. Consider me thoroughly and completely impressed. Now I know how great Steinbeck was from reading *Of Mice and Men* but I never really liked the sound of any of his other novels enough to pick one up. They just didn't sound very interesting to me, but this appeared on a list of eco-fiction reads so I was quite curious to see how it fit the genre. And it seems to me this (important) aspect of the novel is a little overlooked, though (admittedly) there are many other significant themes to consider that do dominate the narrative and take centre stage. More Steinbeck for me in the future! You can connect with me on social media via My Linktree. 5-star-reads modernist-movementOctober 9, 2016Me ha encantado. Ganadora del Pulitzer en 1940 (no me extraña nada) y terriblemente polémica. Con la industrialización masiva de la agricultura, sus enormes costos e inversiones, millones de agricultores quedaron en la más absoluta ruina. Un drama sobre la emigración, la miseria, la explotación humana. La eterna búsqueda de la felicidad (no vamos todos tras ella?) y el paraso, el edén; en este caso California. Una tierra de la que supuestamente mana leche y miel. Pero la familia Joad, igual de tozuda que la tortuga simbólica que aparece varias veces, se da de bruces con la realidad. Después de un viaje plagado de obstáculos California no es lo que esperaban. Y donde está el sueño americano? Aunque quiero dejarlo claro, esta novela no es un "panfleto comunista" como la tildaron muchos en su momento. Es un libro que habla sobre los derechos fundamentales de los seres humanos: comida, un techo, trabajo. La familia Joad solo busca trabajo y vivir en una casita humilde. El viaje no solo afecta físicamente a los personajes, sino que remueve sus conciencias. Especial mención a la Madre (con mayúsculas) pues es el pilar de la familia. Los mantiene unidos, sabe que solo se tienen a ellos mismos y aguanta cualquier cosa sin derrumbarse. No deja que en su rostro se refleje ni la preocupación ni el agotamiento, tirando de absolutamente todos los miembros de la familia. El final se cierra con broche de oro mediante un gesto que mezcla miseria y esperanza. February 11, 2022Why I chose to read this book:1. This book has always intrigued me ever since I was a kid, seeing it on my parents' bookshelf, so I added it to my WTR list about two years ago;2. I pushed it up that List after reading *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah a few months ago (I highly recommend her novel for the atmospheric descriptions of the unrelenting dust storms); and,3. February is "Classics Month" for me!Note: This book may appeal to readers who have some background knowledge of the Great Depression, specifically of the Dust Bowl and migration of American farmers to California.Positives:1. The character-development in this novel is its strong suit! As I traveled along with the Joad family, migrant farmers (Okies) from the Dust Bowl to the Land of Milk and Honey, I cheered for Ma Joad and her no-nonsense attitude and shook my head in frustration over son, Al's one-track mind. I was awestruck by the times they gladly helped out others, even though they had very little of their own to share. Likeable or not, if you were living in close quarters with another family for several months, their personalities would grate on your nerves as well;2. Such descriptive realism! I could vividly picture every scene and appreciated the authentic dialogue; and,3. If you prefer