

1. Original Lange photo, 1936

Two men squatting on sidewalk
Appear to be talking seriously
Sidewalk is dirty; dressed as farmers
Sitting in shade; not working
Crops “burn up in fields”
Expecting some government relief
Oklahoma 1936 Dust Bowl conditions

3 Guiding Questions:

1. What details remain the same throughout all the sources?
2. What descriptive details are added to each source?
3. What details in Block 4 help Steinbeck get his message across?

2. *Working Days*, June 23, 1938

Squatting men have formed into “a circle”
Now making “plans”
Concerned with family: “order of authority”
Concerned with family: “texture”
Now a “conference” and marked as important
Steinbeck intends to develop this image further

3. *Working Days*, June 24, 1938

Squatting men “conference” has grown
The conference is now a “curious democracy”
Steinbeck will take a whole day or more on this
Steinbeck must describe it “convincingly”
The men have been joined by others
Now there are “standing women and children”
A “larger group” has formed

4. *The Grapes of Wrath*, Chapter 14, 1939

Two men squat on their “hams” and appear to be talking while women and children listen
Steinbeck identifies this image as “the node,” indicating this is the central point in his chapter
Steinbeck introduces an outside “you” from the reading public into the verbal picture
His tone is accusatory toward readers “who hate change and fear revolution”
A second image is conjured up: “keep these two connected me apart” suspicious, not trusting
Steinbeck uses biological imagery— anlage, zygote— to describe an organism growing
Self-centered men of “I lost my land” concerned with only self-interest and survival evolves
Image becomes connected men of “We lost our land;” no longer isolated and confused
Steinbeck notes there is ‘danger’ in this unified image of humanity
“This is the beginning – from ‘I’ to we”: Steinbeck’s moral statement made through the novel