



Travels with Charley

IN SEARCH OF AMERICA

“A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policing, and coercion are fruitless. We find that after years of struggle that we do not take a trip; a trip takes us.”

– John Steinbeck

Objectives:

- Examine the specific contributions of John Steinbeck to American literature.
- Explore which problems of modernity Steinbeck was most concerned with and how, if at all, he presented answers to these problems.

Assignments:

- Read *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*.
- Read **Lesson 1**: Steinbeck and Archetypal Quests. Take notes on how *Travels* satisfies the elements of “The Hero’s Quest.” Be prepared to participate in a group report explaining one of the steps relative to *Travels*. You will turn in your notes at the conclusion of your group report.
- Read **Lesson 2**: The American Identity. Compose the assigned essay.
- Prepare the **travel brochure** outlined in the instructions. This is due the first day of school.
- Be prepared to take an **objective test** on the reading of the book and the lessons the first week of school.

You will need to find the book in a library or buy your own copy. Purchasing the book is preferred, since you can mark a personal copy and take notes right in the text.

* Start your reading early. If you leave it until late in the summer, you may not complete the assignments to your expectations. Take notes, either in the text, on stickies, or in a separate document.

** You can contact me with questions through my email at Indian Hills’ website, which I will check frequently throughout the summer.