

# **America is in the Heart Study Guide**

**America is in the Heart by Carlos Bulosan**

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# Contents

<a href="#">America is in the Heart Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 1.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 2.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 3.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 4.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 5.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 6.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 7.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 8.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 9.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 10.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 11.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 12.....</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 13.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 14.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 15.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 16.....</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 17.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 18.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 19.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 20.....</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 21.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Part 2, Chapter 22.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>



[Part 2, Chapter 23..... 30](#)

[Part 2, Chapter 24..... 31](#)

[Part 2, Chapter 25..... 32](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 26..... 33](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 27..... 34](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 28..... 35](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 29..... 36](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 30..... 37](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 31..... 38](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 32..... 39](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 33..... 40](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 34..... 41](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 35..... 42](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 36..... 43](#)

[Part 3, Chapter 37..... 44](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 38..... 45](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 39..... 46](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 40..... 47](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 41..... 48](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 42..... 49](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 43..... 50](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 44..... 51](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 45..... 52](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 46..... 53](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 47..... 54](#)

[Part 4, Chapter 48..... 55](#)



[Part 4, Chapter 49..... 56](#)

[Characters..... 57](#)

[Objects/Places..... 63](#)

[Themes..... 66](#)

[Style..... 68](#)

[Quotes..... 70](#)

[Topics for Discussion..... 73](#)

## Plot Summary

*America is in the Heart* by Carlos Bulosan is the autobiography of the Filipino poet. He begins by describing his early life in the Philippines, describing to the reader what his life was like as a child. He lives on the farm with his father while his mother lives in the city of Banalanan with his brother and little sister. Carlos is the fourth oldest son in the family and he has never met some of his brothers since they departed from the village before he was born.

The hope of the family is brother Macario who is attending high school in a neighboring village. They pawn their land and sell what they can to pay his expenses. When he graduates he will be able to help them and their lives will be better. However, it doesn't work out that way after Macario loses the teaching job he has because of a woman.

Carlos, like other Filipino peasant children, virtually has no childhood. When he is just five years old he is already working in the fields and helping with the cooking and household chores when he is five. When he leaves the farm he helps his mother with her trading business, sometimes traveling to other villages. He works climbing coconut trees and selling the fruit, giving his mother his pay. They all pitch in to try to keep their land and to help Macario through school. Carlos develops his hatred of the middle class when he travels with his mother to other villages and comes into contact with them. Social unrest exists in the Philippines and several peasant rebellions are put down by authorities.

Eventually three of the Bulosan brothers, Macario, Amado and Carlos immigrate to America separately. In the Philippines, they are lead to believe that America represents equality. When they arrive in America they all find that is not exactly the case. There is intense hatred of Filipinos by the whites and there is exploitation. Carlos goes from one situation to another, amazed and astonished by the brutality and cruelty that he finds in America. He works whatever job he can land, usually picking crops, and finds the workers paid a pittance and forced to live in filthy conditions. Many times they are attacked by people who hate Filipinos.

Eventually Carlos and his circle become active, first in the labor movement and then in the Filipino rights movement. Their attempt to organize the workers brings them into direct conflict with the large agricultural interests. Their labor movement eventually becomes involved with radical elements but they do manage to form a union that affiliates with the CIO. Carlos is diagnosed with advanced tuberculosis and spends two years in a hospital.

After being released, Carlos and his friends become instrumental in the movement for Filipino civil rights. They form a committee with the goal of obtaining citizenship for Filipinos, but they lose that battle. When World War II breaks out, they are banned from enlisting in the armed forces. After the Philippines is invaded and they still aren't allowed to enlist, the Filipinos begin a movement that results in a special proclamation by the

president of the United States that allows Filipinos to serve in the armed forces. Carlos' first book of poetry is published at this time.



# Part 1, Chapter 1

## Part 1, Chapter 1 Summary

The book opens with Carlos' father using water buffalo to plow his field in the barrio in Binalonan. Carlos thinks he sees his brother Leon and goes running out to his father who tells him that his brother is still fighting in Europe and doesn't know if he is still alive. There is a stranger walking toward their home. Carlos points him out to his father. They discover the man is his brother Leon. This is Carlos' first meeting with his brother who has been away at war. Carlos is five years old at the time.

There is social agitation in the Philippines at this time. The younger generation has initiated a movement for change and national independence. The rural areas are filled with farmers who farm for the *bacenderos*, who are the landowners. The Bulosan family works on four hectares of land. It is subsistence farming for it is just enough to feed the family.

Leon marries a woman from the northern province. Leon and his wife plan to live in a grass hut behind the family house. After the wedding festivities the crowd follows Leon and his bride to their house. The custom is that they will wait for a signal to see if the bride is a virgin. Black smoke means the bride is a virgin; no smoke means that she isn't and the groom can return her to her family, in which case she will never be able to marry. Since there is no smoke, the crowd drags Leon's wife from the house and ties her to a guava tree. They horsewhip Leon, his father and the wife. After the crowd leaves, Leon and his wife return to their house.

Leon eventually sells his one hectare of land and moves away to Luzon. Carlos doesn't see him again until he is on his way to America. They stand in front of their house and wave as the bus drives away.

## Part 1, Chapter 1 Analysis

The book's opening provides an introduction of the culture of the rural Philippines in the 1940s. Farming with water buffalo is a primitive practice. Traditions like that of finding out if a bride is a virgin or not, are being challenged by the younger generation. Leon's encounter with the townspeople of the barrio indicates this. When the father stood by his son's decision, he is also turned on the villagers. Because of this, Leon and his wife leave the barrio and move to Luzon. After the peace treaty that ends the war, many of the young people are looking to the United States as a place that can provide a better life for them. Carlos eventually becomes one of these people.



# Part 1, Chapter 2

## Part 1, Chapter 2 Summary

Carlos, called Allos by his family, lives on the farm with his father. His mother, baby sister and brother Amado live in town where Amado attends grade school. His other two brothers, aside from Leon, have already moved away from the area. Brother Luciano serves in the Philippine Scouts, which is a part of the U.S. Army, and brother Macario attends high school. Amado must help his father plow and harvest the fields while Carlos takes care of the household chores and the cooking.

The three try to finish the harvest before the rains come. They try to save as much corn as they can. The corn is damaged and they know that the flood will destroy their rice crop. In September, Macario, who is visiting, needs money for living expenses to return to school. Free education is a system introduced by the Americans and many peasants struggle to send their sons to school. The Bulosans are no different. The father sells one hectare of land and gives the money to Macario. When he needs more money, the father sells another hectare of land. Amado's education comes to an end in the fifth grade because his help is needed to work the land. With only one hectare of land they can't support themselves.

The father makes arrangements with the church to work five hectares of land. They all work through the rainy season clearing the land using the only methods they have, which are manual and primitive. One day the father catches Amado beating the caraboa, (water buffalo) and slaps him. Carlos thinks his brother will hit his father with a stick, but he doesn't. Instead, Amado runs away to Binalonan and secures a job as a janitor and helps pay for Macario's expenses.

Eventually Carlos goes to live in Binalonan where he picks nuts and fruits to sell. He gives the money to his mother who sends it to Macario. Carlos falls out of a tree and breaks several bones and can no longer work. He spends months lying on a mat waiting for the bones to heal. His brother Amado helps take care of Carlos until he can walk again. He tells him if he can learn to read a book he will take him to school.

## Part 1, Chapter 2 Analysis

More information is given about the life style of the peasants. The family is split with Carlos and his father living on the farm and the mother, baby and brother Amado living in town. Brother Macario is the hope of the family. He is attending high school and the father is selling land, one hectare at a time to a moneylender, to pay for Macario's expenses. They all hope that Macario will return to Binalonan and teach. His income will help payoff the moneylender and help support them all.

Amado rebels against the father and the hard peasant life and runs away from the barrio back to Binalonan. Eventually, Carlos also moves to Binalonan and works by



selling fruit that he picks. All of the family's resources are directed to the support of Macario. Amado, who is working as a janitor, tells Carlos he will take him to school



# Part 1, Chapter 3

## Part 1, Chapter 3 Summary

The family is relieved when Macario's school year ends since it relieves their financial burden. Carlos meets Macario for the first time, since Carlos had always lived in the barrio. Carlos and his father fill sacks with food and go to Binalonan and await Macario's arrival. They visit the mother, who is selling vegetables in the market, and then to the plaza to wait. It is the day of the national elections and the father goes to vote. Macario's bus arrives and the father introduces the two brothers. The first thing Macario says is that he is going to cut Carlos' long hair.

The three walk back to the house where the mother is making dinner when they arrive. They find that Macario will finish school in three months but he needs more money. He wants them to sell the remaining land or the house. The mother protests, but the father assures Macario that he will have the money he needs. All they will have is the church land and they have to give one third of whatever they grow to the church. There are no laws against usury in the Philippines. As the peasants' conditions worsen, a rebellion eventually forms in the province to the south called Mangusmana. The peasants are shot and those who survive are imprisoned. The social situation does not improve. The peasants, who sacrifice so much to send their sons to school, find the sons come back with new ideas that are foreign to the peasant society.

Macario graduates high school and returns to Binalonan. He secures a teaching job and the highest rate of pay in the town. The family feels relieved because they have no more land remaining. The family begins to experience some leisure time. One day they learn that they have no land to work on since the moneylender owns the land. There is no way they can get the land back.

## Part 1, Chapter 3 Analysis

When Macario needs money to finish his schooling, he returns to Binalonan to ask for it. He expects his parents to sell the rest of their land and even their house, if that's what it takes. In the brashness and selfishness of youth, he seems to have no concerns for his family. Peasants, in the Philippines, have a hard life and are exploited by all, as exemplified by the usury and the moneylenders. Social conditions are at the point where there is a rebellion of peasants in the neighboring province, which fails.

Macario's graduation and well-paying job are not enough to save the family's land from the moneylender, who forecloses. There is no way for them to get the land back, so now they are without land and have no place to grow food.



# Part 1, Chapter 4

## Part 1, Chapter 4 Summary

Carlos begins to develop a social awareness as a result of his family's loss of land. He becomes aware of poverty and degradation. The father cannot acquire land from anywhere and hires himself out as a day laborer. The father acquires the use of land in Mangusmana when his wife's mother dies, but it is not good land. Carlos is sent back to Binalonan for school with his father working the land himself. In Binalonan, Carlos finds they are building a highway from Manila to Baguio, which passes through Binalonan. Carlos secures employment working on the project. He turns his earnings over to his parents, and that, along with what they receive from Macario, is enough for a payment on their land to the moneylender.

Macario reads *Robinson Crusoe* to Carlos and begins to educate his younger brother. Carlos begins to help his mother with her trading business. Only he and Macario remain in Binalonan; all of the other brothers are gone. His mother's trading business is based on barter and many times she gives the food to peasants who have nothing to give in return.

## Part 1, Chapter 4 Analysis

Carlos becomes aware of social conditions when they face near poverty because they lose their land. He is trying to help support his family and wants to keep them together. His father sends him back to Binalonan from Mangusmana, where he is trying to farm his late mother-in-law's land. Carlos foregoes school to help support his family. He helps his mother with her trading business and finds that she gives a lot away on credit or for free to those poorer than they are. He does not understand why.



# Part 1, Chapter 5

## Part 1, Chapter 5 Summary

Carlos likes helping his mother in her trading business. He meets a lot of people and learns about the pride of the poor peasants. His mother decides they will go to Puzzorobio to sell their products, and the town's middle class buys their beans. "She did not pay too much attention to her work, but was admiring the delicately embroidered dresses of the rich women, their smooth, silk handkerchiefs, and the way they carried themselves in the market. For the first time I realized that mother, always in rags, noticed how people wore elegant clothes and walked royally in the crowded place." (pg. 37) Carlos is full of contempt for the middle class because of their arrogance and attitudes toward peasants. One day on the way home they have all their beans swept away by the rising river. This is the last of their trips to Puzzorobio.

With the income the family has earned the father has redeemed the farm. Carlos and his mother go to San Manuel to pick mangos. They shop at the market and on the way home his mother tells him that he can go to school. Carlos tells her he would like to be a doctor. She says she thought he would want to be a lawyer because they have nice offices. That night his young sister Irene dies. Carlos decides he will indeed become a doctor.

## Part 1, Chapter 5 Analysis

Carlos comes into contact with the middle class when he and his mother go to Puzzorobio

to sell their beans. For the first time Carlos thinks that his mother is always dressed in rags. He sees that she pays attention to how the middle class is dressed and admires their finery. On the way home they lose their inventory of beans as they cross the flooded river. They don't go to Puzzorobio again.

The death of his younger sister, Irene, leads Carlos to want to become a doctor. There are no doctors in the area when she dies and there is nothing they can do for her as she dies but sit there and watch.



# Part 1, Chapter 6

## Part 1, Chapter 6 Summary

Irene's death marks the beginning of a streak of bad luck for the family. One day a girl appears and waits for Macario. They fight late into the night until she leaves. She returns a few days later with her belongings and announces that she is staying. She goes to Macario's principal and talks to him. Macario is asked to resign from his teaching job. He does not want to marry the girl because he is still helping his family repay the moneylenders. Macario tries to get a civil service job but there are no openings. In the meantime, the mother is pregnant again, and baby Francisca is born. Amado returns and finds a job in Binalonan and helps them with the next loan payment. Carlos works as a coconut picker and makes good money until he falls from a tree and breaks his arm and a leg. While he is healing, he learns about a man named Jose Rizal, a Filipino who had been a leader until he was killed by the Spanish. Carlos tells Macario that he wants to fight for the betterment of his family and the people.

Macario takes a teaching job in Mindanao, an area that is still dangerous because of the rebellion of the Moros. Macario sends money to the mother to repay the loan. He stops writing and sending money suddenly. A new *presidente* (mayor) is elected in Binalonan and following tradition, all of the old regime employees are fired, including Amado. Unable to find employment, Amado leaves for America, finding work on a ship. They find that Macario is out of work also as the girl followed him to Mindanao. He is also considering going to America. The family still has one loan payment to make but nobody is working and the mother is pregnant again. Carlos is attending school.

## Part 1, Chapter 6 Analysis

As bad luck falls upon the family, the family falls apart. Macario first goes to Mindanao and loses his teaching job there. Amado leaves for America due to the lack of a job in Binalonan and Macario is thinking of doing the same thing. There is no money for the final loan payment. They can't hold the family together anymore.



# Part 1, Chapter 7

## Part 1, Chapter 7 Summary

Carlos, whose legs swell during the rainy season, stays home and cares for his baby sister while his mother works. He wants to return to school but can't because he has to take care of his sister. He can't walk due to the swelling in his legs. His older brother, Luciano, returns home, having completed his time in the service. His brother developed skills such as typing while in the service that make him employable. He is good with equipment and machinery. He carries Carlos to the river and shows him how to make snares to trap birds. The birds become their pets. They never eat them or sell them. Carlos learns to appreciate beauty from Luciano. They catch parrots and sell them, earning enough to open a small store.

In the meantime, the mother has another daughter. Luciano contracted a lung disease while in the service and is supposed to collect a pension. He is ill and eventually they close the store. The father, who can't make the last loan payment, has the moneylender repossess the land again. Luciano tells them that under the present regime and law there is nothing they can do. "There is something wrong in our country when a man can take away something that belongs to you and your family," (pg. 54), the father says. The family pulls together again. Luciano goes to Mangusmana and plants tobacco until his pension comes. Then he returns to Binalonan and gets into politics. He becomes mayor. In one of their discussions, Luciano tells Carlos that he hopes he becomes a journalist. Carlos remembers this conversation years later in America, when he learns that Luciano has died of tuberculosis.

## Part 1, Chapter 7 Analysis

The arrival of Luciano introduces Carlos to another brother whom he learns from. Carlos learns to appreciate beauty and nature from his bird catching with Luciano. They are all learning what a peasant's life under the present regime and laws means when the father loses his land again with only one payment remaining.



# Part 1, Chapter 8

## Part 1, Chapter 8 Summary

The social situation in the Philippines becomes graver as there are more peasant uprisings due to the absentee landlords and their demands. "Each year the landlords demanded a larger share, until it became impossible for the peasants to live." (pg. 58) Carlos' father loses his land and goes to court to try to retrieve his land, but loses. He starts to drink.

Carlos and his mother go to Tayug to work in the rice harvest. The mother brings the two sisters, Francisca and Marcela to the rice fields with them. The four-year-old looks after the baby while Carlos and his mother work. It is here that Carlos meets Felix Razon. Razon and his group are social agitators. One day Felix tells them that a revolt is about to begin. They gather the little ones and leave the field, finding the peasants and the police lining up preparing for the battle. Carlos, his mother and the two girls hide in the bushes where they remain until dusk. They return to Binalonan and learn that the revolt was put down.

## Part 1, Chapter 8 Analysis

Carlos begins to learn more about the social conditions when he, his mother and the two sisters are in Tayug when a peasant revolt breaks out. Carlos is too young to understand the situation in detail but he learns some of the facts from his brother Luciano. He also meets Felix Razon who he will come into contact with again in America.



# Part 1, Chapter 9

## Part 1, Chapter 9 Summary

The father has lost all of his land and animals. Luciano gives him the little store but they lose that as well. The old man's will is broken. At just thirteen years old, Carlos tells his parents that he is leaving. His parents tell him that he is too young, but he still leaves, taking a bus to Baguio. Carlos finds Baguio a beautiful city and looks for a job as a messenger boy or janitor. He works odd jobs in order to have money to eat. He finally obtains employment with a Miss Strandon, an American ex-patriot artist. He does the cooking and the cleaning and general housework. He becomes friends with the houseboy next door, who also works for an American. Both of them have plans to immigrate to the United States. Miss Strandon arranges a job for him with the city librarian when she learns that Carlos loves books. He cleans books, helps patrons and delivers books to patrons' homes. After almost two years, Carlos decides to return to visit Binalonan.

## Part 1, Chapter 9 Analysis

Fed up with the situation in Banalonan and seeing no future there, Carlos, at the age of thirteen, leaves. His parents don't do much to try to stop him. They too know that there is no future there. He finally secures employment as a houseboy in Baguio, working for an American ex-patriot artist who helps him get a job at the city library. After almost two years he decides to return to see his family.





# Part 1, Chapter 10

## Part 1, Chapter 10 Summary

Upon his return to Binalonan, he finds his family's house empty. He had expected his brother Luciano to meet him at the bus stop. He finds some food in the kitchen and eats. He goes outside and mingles with the crowd for New Year's. He runs into his brother Luciano and learns that the family house was sold several months before. The family has moved to Mangusmana. He spends the night at Luciano's home and leaves the next morning for Mangusmana. When he arrives he finds his mother doing the plowing. Carlos is so happy to see his mother that he runs to her, struggling to keep from crying. He tells her to go home: he will finish the plowing.

When he arrives at the house, he finds his father is ill, as Luciano had told him. He is cared for by six-year-old Francisca. His cousins come to visit. One is a high school student in Vigan. His cousin has a girlfriend at a dance that they go to. He shows Carlos how to meet girls by walking up and standing in front of them. The next day as Carlos is walking up to the house, Francisca meets him and tells him that his mother doesn't want him to go inside. The two girls from the dance are there talking to his mother. He goes to town for ten days and when he returns, his mother tells him to leave. He returns to Binalonan to visit his brother and then leaves for Linagayen with his cousin, thinking he will work in the fishing industry.

## Part 1, Chapter 10 Analysis

After two years in Baguio, Carlos is homesick for his family and returns to Binalonan. Arriving there, he spends New Year's Eve with Luciano and then travels on to his family's new home. He and his cousin dance with two girls at a dance and Carlos finds them at his house, talking to his mother the next day. He is sent away by his sister. When he returns, his mother, knowing that there is nothing for him on the farm but the life of a poor peasant, tells him to go. He eventually moves on to Linagayen with his cousin. He is still trying to save enough money to go to America.



# Part 1, Chapter 11

## Part 1, Chapter 11 Summary

Students are flowing into Linagayen from all directions since it is the beginning of the school year. His cousin, who rooms at a boarding house owned by a fisherman, suggests that Carlos stay there. He does, and secures a job working for the fisherman. Carlos works on the fishing boat and likes it. Everyday the crew receives a share of the catch, which they sell. After fishing season ends, the cousin asks Carlos to go to school with him. Carlos attends classes and meets the teacher, who takes a liking to him. The teacher fills out the paperwork that shows Carlos as a student with two years of high school. He is much opposed to the Philippine middle class since he is of peasant origin. He has been to America where he lived and worked. By the time he returns to the Philippines, his family is dead. He gives Carlos a copy of an exam, which Carlos does as a joke, using his cousin's books. His cousin informs him that he has the highest grade on the exam. Carlos and the teacher see this as a joke on the school.

One day as he is walking home he finds a small baby lying in the grass. Not knowing what to do, he takes the infant home to his landlady. She faints when she hears that Carlos found the baby on the school grounds. He finds one of the girl boarders who doesn't like him burning clothes. The next afternoon when he returns to the boarding house there is a crowd in front of the building. The landlady shoves his packed suitcase at him and tells him to run. He protests that he didn't do anything, but takes the suitcase and returns to Binalonan.

## Part 1, Chapter 11 Analysis

Carlos seems happy in Linagayen. He likes working on the fishing boat and he likes the fishermen. When fishing season ends, he goes to school with his cousin and becomes friends with the teacher. The teacher plays a "joke" on the school by giving Carlos student credit papers showing he has completed two years of high school. The teacher hates the middle class students at the school.

The reaction of the landlady and the appearance of Veronica reveal that they lied and blamed Carlos for the birth of the baby. The landlady is afraid that her business will be ruined and sends Carlos away. He has the student credit papers from the teacher as he returns to Binalonan. The next day he travels to San Manuel and tells his family that he is leaving for America.



# Part 1, Chapter 12

## Part 1, Chapter 12 Summary

Carlos finds his brother when he arrives in Binalonan. Luciano tells him that the family has gone from Mangusmana to San Manuel for the mongo harvest. Luciano introduces Carlos to his wife and daughter and they walk by their old house and talk about how they would like to buy it. Carlos tells Luciano that he will leave for San Manuel in the morning to say good-bye to the family and then will go to Manila.

He says his good-byes to Luciano who tells him not to return to Binalonan. He is sorry he did. On the train to Manila Carlos meets a university student whose father is governor of the province. In Manila, Juan Cablaan, the student, shows Carlos around. He shows him a place where there are many barefooted peasants with suitcases, waiting to go to America. He gives Carlos a pair of shoes and tells him to wear them. They wander around the Tondo, a slum district. The next morning, after taking a physical, he boards the boat and sails from Manila.

## Part 1, Chapter 12 Analysis

Carlos returns to Binalonan to say good-bye to his brother and family. He has made up his mind to go to Manila and then on to America. His brother tells him to never return to Binalonan as he, Luciano, did. Luciano feels trapped and doesn't want Carlos to have the same kind of life. Carlos says his good-byes, boards a train to Manila and sails for America.



## Part 2, Chapter 13

### Part 2, Chapter 13 Summary

Carlos is seasick and lonely on the journey to America. While they are sailing there is an outbreak of meningitis among the passengers. He meets a man named Marcelo who is from San Manuel. The ship docks in Seattle and Marcelo and Carlos are taken to a hotel in the Filipino district. They get into a card game and lose all of their money. Marcelo wires his brother in California for money only to find that he died in an auto accident the previous week. They finally tell the proprietor that they have no money. They are sold for a price of five dollars to work in the fish canneries in Alaska. They are forced to sign a paper saying that they owe the contractor forty dollars. "It was the beginning of my life in America, the beginning of a long flight that carried me down the years, fighting desperately to find peace in some corner of life." (pg. 101)

He meets two people at the cannery: Conrado Torres, an Oregon university student who has dreams of organizing cannery workers, and Paulo Lorca, a Los Angeles law school graduate. Both are interested in the labor movement as it involves Filipinos. They work hard hours in the cannery and play softball and fraternize with the Indian girls after working hours. Paulo is particularly taken with a particular Indian girl, who has a baby one day. She tells the company officials that Conrado is the father but Conrado says it is not his baby. Paulo says that he is the father and will marry her. He has to stay in Alaska at the cannery for seven years.

### Part 2, Chapter 13 Analysis

When Carlos and Marcelo arrive in the United States things don't go the way they had planned. They lose their money in a card game, can't pay the hotel bill and are sold to work in a fish cannery in Alaska. Filipino peasants face the same kind of exploitation in the United States that they faced in the Philippines. At the cannery, obviously, there is the same kind of exploitation. When Paulo agrees to marry the Indian girl and stay in Alaska for seven years, he says he has problems in Los Angeles. He must have been in some kind of trouble in L.A. to want to stay at the cannery.



## Part 2, Chapter 14

### Part 2, Chapter 14 Summary

Returning to Seattle, Carlos expects a reasonable amount of money for the cannery, but he receives only \$13. He is in a slum area with gambling lords and drug dealers. He wants to leave this area and build a life for himself in America. He finds Marcelo in a dance hall where men buy tickets to dance with the girls. The girl with Marcelo is taking a ticket every minute instead of every three minutes. A man hits Marcelo over the head with a lead pipe and guns started firing. Carlos runs out of the dance hall to a church. He is sitting in a truck trying to collect himself when a man asks him if he wants a job. Carlos says he does and they drive off with him.

They drive to Moxee City where Carlos is to work as an apple picker. The orchard is owned by a man named Mr. Malraux who has three teenage daughters who help out in the orchard when they aren't in school. At the end of the season the crew leader goes to the bank for the checks and doesn't return. One night while they are all outside with the Malraux family, a group appears with guns and starts shooting. Carlos flees with Julio, another apple picker. They travel by foot for several days before reaching the Yakima River. Julio says they'll catch a train in Sunnyside. Carlos says he wants to go to California because he has two brothers there but doesn't know how to find them. At the train station in Sunnyside, Julio goes to find food and doesn't return. Carlos gets on a train the next morning. "Then the train screamed and the thought of Julio hurt me. I stood peering outside and listening to the monotonous chugging of the engine. I knew that I could never be unkind to any Filipino, because Julio had left me a token of friendship, a seed of trust, that ached to grow to fruition as I rushed toward another city." (pg. 112)

### Part 2, Chapter 14 Analysis

Carlos' short stay in Seattle ends with him fleeing after a gun shootout in a dance hall involving his friend Marcelo. Some men offer him a job and he rides off with them. He seems happy in Moxee City, until the crew chief disappears with his paychecks. His stay there does not end happily. He and co-worker Julio flee when an armed group attacks the orchard and its occupants. Julio deserts him at the train station. He boards a train the next day after waiting all night for him to return with food. He doesn't know if the act was intentional or not.



## Part 2, Chapter 15

### Part 2, Chapter 15 Summary

On the train, Carlos falls asleep as darkness sets in. He awakens to hear a girl being assaulted. He arises to try to help and is hit over the head and knocked unconscious.

When the train reaches Portland, they walk around together and find a train headed to California. They get on the train and fall asleep. When Carlos wakes up the next morning the girl is gone and he finds out that he is in Reno, Nevada. He finds a train to California. The hoboes on the train tell him that there is a sizeable Filipino community in Stockton so he heads there.

In Stockton he finds Chinatown and a lot of gambling houses. He stops for a cup of tea and while he is sitting there drinking a Chinese man shoots a Filipino and Carlos runs. When he stops he meets a man named Claro, who speaks his dialect and takes him to his restaurant where he makes a meal for them. Claro tells Carlos how the Filipinos are being exploited by the Chinese. He tells Carlos to stay away from Chinese gambling halls and to leave Stockton and not return until he is ready to fight for his people. Carlos doesn't understand what he means but finds a spot in a boxcar and leaves.

### Part 2, Chapter 15 Analysis

Carlos is basically roaming around the western states in boxcars. He doesn't know where his brothers are or how to find them. He doesn't understand what Claro tells him about the exploitation of the Filipinos and he knows that he doesn't understand. He seems to be telling Claro that he may understand in another year after he has experienced more of America, but he still takes his advice and leaves Stockton.



## Part 2, Chapter 16

### Part 2, Chapter 16 Summary

"I began to be afraid, riding alone in the freight train. I wanted suddenly to go back to Stockton and look for a job in the tomato fields, but the train was already traveling fast. I was in flight again, away from an unknown terror that seemed to follow me everywhere. Dark flight into another place, toward other enemies. But there was a clear sky and the night was ablaze with stars. I could still see the faint haze of Stockton's lights in the distance, a halo arching above it and fading into a backdrop of darkness." ( pg. 119)  
Carlos jumps from freight train to freight train, making his way south, finally getting off at Salinas. He jumps trains, watching and doing what the hoboes do. He rides from Salinas to San Luis Obispo by hanging on to a rod behind the coal car.

In San Luis Obispo Carlos meets a Filipino who drives him to Pismo Beach where there is a little Filipino community. He drives on with him to Lompoc. He learns that there is a great deal of discrimination against Filipinos in California. In Lompoc he finds a Filipino community and goes into a cafe and sits down, noticing a Filipino man whom he follows when he leaves the cafe. Carlos follows him into a building and gets hit over the head. He sees a man with a gun. Behind the man is his brother Amado. He has to convince Amado that he is Carlos. When he mentions their mother's name, Autilia Sampayan, his brother hugs him. The other man introduces himself as Alfredo.

The three men talk. Alfredo and Amado are bootleggers. They invite Carlos to join them in their business but he says he wants to go to Los Angeles. He boards a bus and leaves.

### Part 2, Chapter 16 Analysis

Carlos follows a stranger that leads to his brother. He has no way of knowing that when he first spotted Alfredo in the cafe. He finds his brother has turned into a different kind of person than he was in the Philippines. He is a bootlegger and is rough and cruel. Carlos doesn't want that kind of life and politely refuses their offer to join their business. Amado tells Carlos that he shouldn't have come to America and that he can never go back to the Philippines, but he doesn't explain why.



## Part 2, Chapter 17

### Part 2, Chapter 17 Summary

Carlos arrives in Los Angeles and after walking around, he hears his dialect being spoken. The proprietor tells him to go to the dance hall to look for his brother. He finds a church where he sleeps. He roams around Los Angeles looking for Macario. He is sitting in a Filipino poolroom talking to a gambler when two policemen enter and shoot a young Filipino man. After the police and ambulance leave, Carlos asks the people why they shot the man. They tell him it often happens. Just then he sees his brother Macario entering with another man. They leave for his brother's hotel. Macario introduces Carlos to a room full of people where they are having a wedding party. Carlos and Macario leave around midnight. Carlos finds it hard to talk to his brother even though they walk until dawn. They return to the room and find a place to sleep on the floor. The next morning Macario says he'll look for a job and one of the others tells him it is no use. He learns who the others are. All except Leon are unemployed due to the Depression. "I found my brother Macario in a strange world. I would stand the poverty and hunger, but this desperate cynicism disturbed me. Were these Filipinos revolting against American society in this debased form? Was there no hope for them?" (pg. 133) The next morning Carlos learns who some of the people are and what their stories are. He meets Nick, Jose, Manuel and Victor.

Leon is keeping a roof over everyone's head by selling tickets at a dance hall. One night Leon dies and that is the end of their room.

### Part 2, Chapter 17 Analysis

America is not as Carlos thought. He is still young and naive, but nobody really tells him that, as indicated by Macario's friend's reaction to Carlos saying he thought he would buy a house in Los Angeles. Carlos does not understand his brother's reaction and does not understand why they can't talk as they used to. Carlos does not understand the discrimination they face as Filipino immigrants.





## Part 2, Chapter 18

### Part 2, Chapter 18 Summary

Leon's death means there is no money to pay for the room. They receive notice from the proprietor and they all scatter. Macario and Carlos move to a red light district where they are eventually joined by Nick and another friend named Luz. Luz dies in a card game some time after this. Another friend, Alonzo, is living with a white divorcee and attending college when the police come and beat him and take him away. The divorcee is driven out of town. When Alonzo is released, he returns to college, more determined than ever to finish. The little group living in the Hope Street apartment has sold everything they have to pay the rent. Macario and Carlos go house to house looking for work. Eventually, they are locked out of the Hope Street room. After spending nights in a theater for a while with the other homeless, Nick finds some money in the street and secures a room for them for a month.

Macario finds a job as a houseboy at the house of a movie director. He gives Carlos two dollars every week to live on. Carlos is at the house one night helping his brother serve the group and listens to the conversation of the people talking about Filipinos. Nick gets another girl in trouble and has to leave town. Carlos decides to go with him to Imperial Valley to do farm work.

### Part 2, Chapter 18 Analysis

Carlos does not like the kind of life they have. Macario is also happy in the United States. He tells Carlos that he wants to go back to the Philippines and that he will have the money to do so in two years. They all live together and pool their resources helping each other.

When Macario obtains a job as a houseboy, Carlos goes to help him one day. He listens to the group talking about how they hate Filipinos and sees how he and his brother are treated. He vows to never allow himself to be treated the way his brother is.



## Part 2, Chapter 19

### Part 2, Chapter 19 Summary

"It was now the year of the great hatred: the lives of Filipinos were cheaper than those of dogs. They were forcibly shoved off the streets when they showed resistance. The sentiment against them was accelerated by the marriage of a Filipino and a girl of the Caucasian race in Pasadena. The case was tried in court and many technicalities were brought in with it to degrade the lineage and character of the Filipino people." (pg. 143)

The hatred against Filipinos intensifies and continues in 1941 as the war with Japan begins. The states make it illegal for Malaysians to marry Caucasians, since anthropologists said that Filipinos are Malaysian. Jose and Carlos arrive in San Diego, under these conditions, with hatred resulting in Carlos being beaten when he tries to obtain a job. They leave and head south to Holtville, where they are hired by a Japanese farmer to help pick winter peas. One night, men come and burn their bunkhouse, but they both manage to escape. While walking toward Calexico, they meet a Filipino named Frank who owns a car. They head to Bakersfield to help harvest grapes. They still suffer the hatred of white men. When a Filipino camp is burned, they leave Bakersfield.

They try to jump a train to Lodi but are seen by detectives. Jose falls off the train and has his feet severed. Both Carlos and Frank run to help him. They find a farmer who drives them to a hospital. They say their good byes to Jose the next morning and decide to go to Chicago. However, they find work in Moscow, Idaho. After three weeks, Frank leaves for Chicago by himself. Carlos ends up in Billings, Montana, where he finds a group of Filipino workers. He decides to stay and work with them instead of jumping around from state to state, but due to another incident of a worker with a woman, he ends up on the run again.

### Part 2, Chapter 19 Analysis

Carlos is confronted with the intense hatred of the whites wherever he goes. Fleeing from state to state, he decides he is going to stop running and stay in Billings and try to put his life into some kind of order, but due to the fighting of two of his co-workers over a woman, he ends up running again. Carlos, who is not happy with his life in America, isn't ready to give up yet. He is still determined to make it work.



## Part 2, Chapter 20

### Part 2, Chapter 20 Summary

Carlos cannot understand the brutality he sees in America and he doesn't understand the changes that are taking place within him. He goes to Seattle and stays in the same hotel he stayed in when he first arrived in America. He steals the sheets and sells them, using the money to buy food. He doesn't feel guilty about the act. He rides to Portland with a man and roams around Portland. He tries sleeping at the bus station but is confronted by the police. A Filipino busboy gives him the address of a place where he can go to eat and sleep. The place is full of homeless men. When one of them makes advances to Carlos, Carlos flees to the train yard and jumps a train. He gets off in Klamath Falls and is apprehended by two policemen while he is sitting in a restaurant. He is arrested and put in jail, and then is beaten and robbed in the jail and injures his right hand. The next day he is released. He walks for two days and then jumps a train, eventually arriving in the town of Guadalupe. He meets a man from Binalonan named Cortez who has a work crew. Carlos goes to work for him when he recovers from the prison beating.

### Part 2, Chapter 20 Analysis

Carlos does not understand the brutality and cruelty and he doesn't like the way he has to live. In Portland he stays in a mission where he is given a place to sleep and free food. He is afraid of the place and the men that stay there. He leaves there and is beaten and robbed in Kalmath Falls. In Guadalupe he meets a man named Cortez who claims to be from Binalonan. He goes to work for Cortez's crew picking crops. He has to live in the filthy conditions that are provided, but he works hard picking cauliflower.



## Part 2, Chapter 21

### Part 2, Chapter 21 Summary

At the end of the cauliflower season he goes with the crew to Nipomo to work the lettuce season. He travels to Lompoc to see his brother Amado. Amado and Alfredo are out of the bootlegging business and are now in the gambling business.

Carlos works hard in the lettuce harvest and then the winter peas harvest. He lends his brother Amado all of his money to open a restaurant, but Amado gambles it all away. Carlos takes a job as a dishwasher. He feels that he has to help Amado. Carlos receives a promotion to the bakery department. He gets into a fight and is fired, but Carlos isn't remorseful. "I tried to find a justification for my sudden rebellion - why it was so sudden, and black, and hateful. Was it possible that, coming to America with certain illusions of equality, I had slowly succumbed to the hypnotic effects of racial fear?" (pg. 164)

He learns of his father's death when he receives a letter from his cousin. Carlos calls this a turning point in his life. He loses his faith in America. He and a man he meets, Max, rob a Japanese man one night. They work up a scheme to rob a bank. Since they almost get shot in another robbery, they decide to leave and go to San Luis Obispo. When they are there, Max says he killed the white man that was living with his wife in San Luis Obispo. Max tells him to go. Carlos runs to the bus stations and buys a ticket to Los Angeles. When he can't reach Macario, he takes a train to New Mexico.

### Part 2, Chapter 21 Analysis

Carlos finds his brother Amado and gives him all of his money when he says he wants to open a restaurant, but Amado loses it in a dice game. Carlos, however, does not get angry with him and instead feels that he has to help him. His job at the bakery ends when he gets into a fight with a white man. Striking back at white men somehow gives Carlos an emotional release.

When Carlos learns that his father has died, he says he loses faith in America. He and a man named Max go on a crime spree, robbing people and making plans to rob a bank. When they go to San Luis Obispo, Max enters a house and when he comes out he tells Carlos he just shot the man living with his wife. He tells Carlos to run.



## Part 2, Chapter 22

### Part 2, Chapter 22 Summary

In New Mexico Carlos escapes the violence of the West Coast. He receives a letter from Amado who is in jail and takes a bus to California. He hires a lawyer for Amado but he can't get him out. He stays near Amado so he can visit him on weekends. Amado serves his six-month term and when he is released, Carlos finds work at a milk company. Amado receives money from Carlos and opens a restaurant. Amado leases the upstairs to use as a hotel but soon his old friends show up and fill the place. Soon Amado has to give up the restaurant and hotel and Carlos loses his job at the milk factory.

One night Carlos runs into Alfredo in Chinatown. Alfredo takes him to a restaurant and buys him a meal. Alfredo tells him there is plenty of money to be made. He is building his own prostitution business. Carlos tells him no and never sees Alfredo again when he leaves. After Alfredo leaves the area, Amado moves to Los Angeles and finds a job as a cook. Carlos stays in Santa Barbara helping with the crop harvests. He takes a job as a dishwasher in Buelton where he stays until he is fired for getting into a fight with the headwaiter who refused to serve a Filipino who was with a white woman. Carlos' reaction to racial discrimination is uncontrollable rage. He physically attacks the people when he is confronted with this kind of situation.

### Part 2, Chapter 22 Analysis

When Carlos is in New Mexico he is withdrawn from the hatred and crime that exists on the West Coast, but he is lonely without any Filipinos around. He returns to be near Amado when Amado serves a prison term. When Amado is released Carlos again gives him all of his money to open a restaurant. Amado eventually loses the restaurant and leaves for Los Angeles. Carlos works at various odd jobs and eventually gets fired from his restaurant job when he attacks the headwaiter over the treatment of a Filipino.



## Part 2, Chapter 23

### Part 2, Chapter 23 Summary

Carlos meets Mariano, one his brother's friends, in Pismo Beach. They have a room they share with other people. Carlos eats by hanging around the restaurant and finding what he can. The owner, a Korean woman, tells him he can eat there whenever he wants. In the spring he goes to Seattle for the fishing season and runs into Julio. He teaches Carlos how to play Pi-Q, a gambling game. Julio is a good pick pocket and considers his "pickings" to be works of art, which is why he doesn't sell them. Carlos tries gambling and loses all of his money. With just fifteen cents remaining the next morning, he tries again and wins five hundred dollars. He goes to Los Angeles and looks for Amado but can't find him, so he goes on to San Diego. He goes by boat to Coronado and misses the return boat. A student tells him of a Filipino clubhouse. He goes there and finds Frank and joins in their game of Pi-Q with the other residents. Carlos wins continually. Frank tells him one of the men has a wife in the hospital and Carlos says that he shouldn't be gambling. Carlos buys \$50 of groceries for the clubhouse.

Carlos leaves San Diego and travels around gambling. He finally goes to San Luis Obispo and stays in a Japanese hotel and writes a letter to his brother Macario, whose address he was given. Finishing the long letter, he realizes that he can read and write in understandable English. "They can't silence me any more! I'll tell the world what they have done to me!" (pg. 180)

### Part 2, Chapter 23 Analysis

Carlos learns how to gamble when Julio teaches him how to play the game of Pi-Q. He travels around gambling. He meets Frank again in Coronado and gambles with the men living in Frank's clubhouse and takes their money. He purposely loses some of the money so they don't become angry. When Carlos realizes that he can read and write in English well enough to communicate, he is happy and proud of himself. Now he knows that he can one day tell his story. He is not happy in America and hasn't been since he arrived. He is a little happier when he has his gambling winnings.



## Part 2, Chapter 24

### Part 2, Chapter 24 Summary

The next morning Carlos walks around the town feeling like a new man. He goes to the house where Max apparently shot the man living with his wife. He knocks on the door and the woman invites him in. The woman is married to a Filipino named Pascual and they run a small newspaper. While they are talking, Jose and Gazamen appear. Jose is now active in organizing the Filipino workers. Carlos goes to work for Pascual writing articles for the newspaper under the penname of Carl, given to him by Pascual.

When Pascual suffers a stroke, Jose and Carlos take over the editorial duties on the paper. The wife and Gazamen work as the newspaper's business managers. They have to sell subscriptions and advertising space for the paper. When the pea pickers have a strike in Pismo Beach, they make placards and drive out to the site. Jose is holding a meeting with the workers, some of whom have refused to join the strike. Jose is arrested, which Carlos finds out about later. When Carlos tells Pascual about the arrest, Pascual, a lawyer, has Lucille call a friend in Santa Barbara who secures Jose's release.

Pascual tells Carlos that he knows that Carlos doesn't understand what is going on. He tells that about a war between labor and capital. He goes on telling Carlos the story of his life, as he tries to explain.

### Part 2, Chapter 24 Analysis

Carlos finds a cause when he meets Pascual and Lucille. He writes a column and helps organize workers. He finally has a way to help improve the lot of Filipinos in the country. He doesn't understand the part about the war between labor and capital but he knows that Pascual is a socialist. Pascual and Lucille give Carlos a chance to write and to do something positive in America instead of just drifting around gambling.



## Part 2, Chapter 25

### Part 2, Chapter 25 Summary

Pascual's condition worsens and his only desire is to return to the Philippines. Carlos solicits contributions from the Filipino camps. Before he dies, Pascual tells them, "'It is for the workers that we must write,' he said weakly. 'We must interpret their hopes as a people desiring the fullest fulfillment of their potentialities. We must be strong of voice, objective of criticism, protest and challenge. There is no other way to combat any attempts to suppress individual liberty...'" (pg. 187) After his death, Lucille closes the house and moves the newspaper to San Francisco.

Carlos finds his brother Macario in Los Angeles living with Nick and running a literary magazine with Felix Razon. They decide they must help improve conditions for the Filipinos and fight for equality.

### Part 2, Chapter 25 Analysis

Carlos and his circle have become social activists bordering on revolutionaries. He and his group are calling for a new social order based on equality and they are prepared to fight for it. They want a new world in which there is no illiteracy, hunger or misery. They have all worked to make America what it is, and they want their equal rights in it. The purpose of the literary magazine is to present this position.





## Part 3, Chapter 26

### Part 3, Chapter 26 Summary

They print and distribute their magazine, *The New Tide*, to the Filipino workers. They are trying to bring about a social awakening of the Filipinos, helping them realize that they don't have to live the way they do. They do not have enough money to keep the magazine going and it eventually perishes. Macario goes to New Mexico hoping to enroll at the university while the others find jobs in Los Angeles.

The labor movement is gaining momentum in America. Carlos tries to help Jose hold together the Filipino Workers' Association. Carlos, Jose and Gazamen make Lompoc their headquarters and the center of the Filipino labor movement. Internal power struggles and the Filipino Workers' Association prevented the formation of a coherent Filipino force. There are a series of strikes but the Association leadership keeps losing their buildings. The Lompoc office finally becomes their temporary headquarters. Their plans to hold a rally in the town park are not allowed so they hold the meeting outside of the town limits instead. During the meeting, four cars full of armed men arrive and shooting begins. Jose and Carlos hide until the men leave. While they are wandering around a few days later, they are arrested for vagrancy and released after three days. They return to Lompoc to find a strike in progress, agitated by a woman named Helen. Helen tells Jose that she has been looking for him. Mr. Magma told her to find Jose.

### Part 3, Chapter 26 Analysis

The days of social agitation and the labor movement have begun and Carlos and Jose are a part of it. When Macario's group successfully raises the money to keep the magazine going, Carlos goes to help Jose in the labor movement. The labor movement in America is violent, and it is no less violent for the Filipinos. Having survived the shooting at the meeting they were holding, Carlos and Jose return to Lompoc to find a woman named Helen who is leading a strike for lettuce workers. Jose knows the man, Mr. Magma, who told Helen to find him. Carlos is suspicious because she treats the strike situation as a business.



## Part 3, Chapter 27

### Part 3, Chapter 27 Summary

With Jose's involvement the strike begins and gains momentum. This time they organize their own patrols for protection. The strike spreads from Lompoc to Solvang and Las Cruces. Carlos becomes the secretary of the local. The strikers try to prevent the transport of the produce but are beaten by the police and three strikers are arrested. A Santa Barbara newspaper reports the strike is being agitated by communists, which causes some people to join the non-strikers in the field. The strike is broken and Helen and Jose move on to Salinas. Carlos suspects that Helen is a strikebreaker because she disappears every time a strike is broken. Jose and Helen are arrested but Helen is immediately released.

Carlos tries to obtain his brother Macario's support but can't. He has a job, isn't very interested in college, and his support of strikes is more theoretical than practical. Amado also isn't interested in the strikes. He is working with a big-time racketeer lawyer and living in luxury. He turns his back on the Filipino people, an act that began the separation of the brothers.

Carlos lives with Macario in Los Angeles. He meets Helen at a meeting and introduces her to Macario. Helen moves in with Macario. Jose arrives hearing that Helen is in Los Angeles. He now knows that Helen works for the big agricultural interests and he wants to stop her from doing more damage to their cause. They confront her with this information and she reveals her hatred of Filipinos. After a fight she runs out and is never heard from again.

### Part 3, Chapter 27 Analysis

Carlos correctly suspects Helen of being a strikebreaker; however, he can't convince Jose of that fact. Jose learns the hard way that Helen works for the big agricultural interests. When Helen appears in Los Angeles, Carlos meets her at a meeting and introduces her to his brother Macario, never dreaming that his brother would end up living with the woman. When Jose arrives, they confront Helen and she tells them how much she hates Filipinos. Carlos strikes her and she runs out of the apartment never to be heard of again.

Carlos is the one who correctly pegged Helen. The others failed to see it, which is how Helen caused so much damage to their cause.



## Part 3, Chapter 28

### Part 3, Chapter 28 Summary

The Filipino Workers' Association comes to an end. The agricultural interests curtail workers' civil liberties and are hitting back at the organizers. Carlos, Jose and the other labor leaders have not correctly assessed their enemy, the big agricultural interests. Jose, Carlos and the others meet in a newspaper reporter's house to plan their strategy. After the meeting, they each head to different places, their so-called territories. The leaders now are: Ganzo who works on the paper with Lucille; Jose and Carlos who are working in Santa Barbara County; Felix Razon who goes to Imperial Valley; Nick who handles Los Angeles and San Diego; Millar who is in Sacramento; Conrado Torres who works in Seattle and Yakima Valley; and Gazamen and Mariano who work in Portland.

Miller notifies Carlos and Jose that there are problems in San Jose. They go to San Jose and cannot find Miller so they go to the fields to talk to the workers. Their wages have been cut from thirty cents an hour to twenty cents. Mexican workers are brought in when the Filipinos strike. Carlos and Jose go to the Mexican district and talk to the people. Most of their people stop working the fields. That night Jose and Carlos are kidnapped by five white men and thrown in a car where Miller is laying on the floor bleeding. They are driven out into the woods. They tie Jose and Carlos to trees and beat them. They leave Miller lying on the ground. While the men are off drinking, Miller crawls over to Carlos and tells him there is a knife in his shoe. Carlos cuts himself free and escapes.

He returns to San Jose and walks into the house of a white woman, who helps him when she finds out what has happened. In the morning when Carlos wakes up, he finds her bags are packed. She has a car and says they will drive to Los Angeles.

### Part 3, Chapter 28 Analysis

Carlos and his group are the labor leaders of the Filipino labor movement in California and the West Coast. That becomes obvious when they hold their meetings at Miller's house. Carlos and Jose are also the troubleshooters since they go wherever there are problems. In San Jose, Carlos is almost killed, along with Miller and Jose. Carlos escapes with Miller's help and leaves the area with Marian, the woman whose house he walked into. He didn't even try to find help for Jose and Miller. Carlos has to flee because his life is in danger. His group is obviously marked.



## Part 3, Chapter 29

### Part 3, Chapter 29 Summary

Marian tells Carlos her history while she is driving. Even though Marian has some college education, her life has been one of hardship and bitterness. In Salinas, Marian stays with relatives and Carlos stays at a hotel. Marian returns the next morning with food and tells him that she has been with friends. Marian sleeps a few hours and tells Carlos she wants him to go to school in Los Angeles. In San Luis Obispo Carlos finds Ganzo at the house where Pascual once lived. He is in bad shape physically, having been beaten and he tells Carlos that Gazamen has also been caught.

In Los Angeles, Carlos cannot find Macario. Marian gives him several hundred dollars so he can go to school and tells him that she has deposited more for him. They go to a nightclub for dinner and Marian faints. A doctor says that she is very sick, and she dies just a few days later from a complication of syphilis.

### Part 3, Chapter 29 Analysis

Marian must have known that she was dying when she deposited her money for Carlos. Everywhere they go, she disappears for hours or days. Carlos is never suspicious. Along the way to Los Angeles, he finds that most of the labor leaders have been physically beaten. The outlook for their union movement isn't good. He still doesn't know the fate of Jose and Miller.



## Part 3, Chapter 30

### Part 3, Chapter 30 Summary

Carlos is deeply affected by Marian's death. He begins drinking and roaming around the West Coast aimlessly. He meets two girls on a bus, Lily and Rosaline, and gets off in Medford where they live. They had run off to San Diego to marry sailors. Carlos stays at a hotel but joins their family for dinner and goes swimming with them and their friends. The next morning he is on a bus headed for Seattle.

When he arrives in Seattle he meets Conrado Torres and learns what is happening. The contractors have hired armed thugs. The local cannery union head, Dagohoy, and two other Filipinos enter the restaurant as Conrado and Carlos are leaving. They hear shooting in the restaurant and find that the three union officials had been shot and killed.

Carlos goes to San Francisco after the funeral for a meeting of the Filipino unions. He finds Jose who is still mending from the San Jose beatings. Ganzo attends the meeting and Carlos goes to Salinas to find Mariano. There he receives word that a union has been formed called the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America (UCAPAWA). He tells Jose he will go to Los Angeles to pick up his belongings and then returns to help. They will meet in Lompoc.

Carlos goes to Macario's in Los Angeles. He meets a girl named Dora Travers who is waiting for Macario one day. She supports him in his poetry writing. Carlos begins coughing up blood. Macario calls a doctor for him and they learn he is in the advanced stages of tuberculosis. Macario says he will stay by Carlos and help him until he is well.

### Part 3, Chapter 30 Analysis

Carlos, who has only known Marian a short time, is deeply affected by her death. Instead of staying in Los Angeles for school, he starts roaming around the West Coast again and drinking. In Seattle, he and Conrado walk out of a restaurant right before three cannery union officials are shot and killed. Carlos plans to help Jose in Lompoc but in Los Angeles he becomes ill. He is diagnosed with tuberculosis. His brother Macario vows to remain with him and help him until he is well. Macario remembers their brother Luciano who wasted away from the same disease.



## Part 3, Chapter 31

### Part 3, Chapter 31 Summary

Carlos does not understand the full implication of the diagnosis. He keeps hoping he will recover and be able to leave to work in the labor movement again. His condition, however, worsens over the next three months. Macario finds a job in a restaurant and comes home with lunch for Carlos every day. Carlos is too weak to get out of bed by himself. He writes poetry and some of his poems are published.

The editor of the magazine wants to arrange a scholarship for Carlos. He does not tell her of his condition. The editor dies on a trip to South American and Carlos never does meet her. Alice Odell wants to meet him. Carlos staggers to the public library for the meeting and the two sit in the library and write notes back and forth to each other. They finally go outside and sit and talk, sharing stories from their lives with each other. Alice visits him in his room, escaping the landlady who won't allow white women to visit. Eventually, Carlos is moved by ambulance to the county hospital. Alice comes to visit until she leaves for a job on the East Coast. She stays in touch, sending him books, until she leaves for the Soviet Union.

### Part 3, Chapter 31 Analysis

Carlos is bedridden with his disease. While he is bedridden, he writes poetry, some of which is published. People from the literary world begin to contact him. He does not tell them of his illness. He becomes friends with Alice Odell who brings him books so he can read and expand his horizons.

Carlos' illness eventually requires hospitalization and he is moved by ambulance to the county hospital. Alice still comes to visit until she relocates to the East Coast for a job. Carlos undergoes surgery, which is successful. Now totally removed from the labor movement, Carlos is a part of the literary world.



## Part 3, Chapter 32

### Part 3, Chapter 32 Summary

With Alice gone, her sister Eileen comes to visit Carlos, bringing him books and other things like fruits and vegetables. This is the beginning of a relationship that continues for three years. Carlos' knee was damaged in the San Jose beating and the doctors put the leg in a cast. Eventually, the knee requires surgery that leaves him with a stiff leg. Felix comes to visit and brings him news of the UCAPAWA. Felix tells him of the struggle in Spain and that he, Macario and Nick are going to Spain to help the peasants and to help fight fascism.

### Part 3, Chapter 32 Analysis

Carlos is quite taken with Eileen, possibly because she is one of the few female visitors he has on a regular basis. He has other visitors. Felix tells him of the troubles in Spain and that he, Macario and Nick are going there to fight. Carlos does not understand why they must go to a strange continent to fight for the peasants. Carlos vows that he will return to the Philippines to help their own peasants. "'All right, Felix Razon,' I wrote in my diary when he went away. 'You found no peace. The wise men lied to us. All right, go fight a war on another continent, like my brother Leon. But if I live I will go back to our country and fight the enemy there, because he is also among our people...'" (pg. 240)



## Part 3, Chapter 33

### Part 3, Chapter 33 Summary

As Felix said, Macario comes that evening and tells Carlos that he is leaving to fight in Spain. As he and Carlos talk, Carlos begins to understand why. In Macario's absence, Carlos is drawn closer to Eileen. They now discuss the books that she brings him.

### Part 3, Chapter 33 Analysis

Carlos at first doesn't understand why his brother has to go to fight in Spain, but as they talk it over he begins to understand his brother's need to help out the peasants there. Carlos begins to think of his early days in Binalonan and some of the things that happened there.





## **Part 3, Chapter 34**

### **Part 3, Chapter 34 Summary**

Carlos faces more surgery for the tuberculosis that is spreading. The doctors try experimental procedures on him, hoping to halt the spread of the disease. He has a total of three operations and is left without ribs on his right side. Carlos continues reading.

### **Part 3, Chapter 34 Analysis**

With his tuberculosis rapidly spreading, Carlos undergoes three experimental procedures as the doctors try to halt the progress of the disease. Carlos submerges himself in the literary world reading the works of Russian and American writers. He feels that they are all sensitive to the social situations of their time, regardless of where they live.



## Part 3, Chapter 35

### Part 3, Chapter 35 Summary

One day a boy comes from another ward and asks Carlos to write a letter to his mother for him, since he doesn't know how to write. He wants his mother in Arkansas to know that he is okay. Carlos writes the letter for him.

One day Macario appears. He and Nick could not obtain the required visas so they were unable to go to Spain. Felix obtained a visa and was in Spain. Macario finds a job and rents a house in Echo Park while Nick goes to Alaska to work in the fish canneries and on his way back he stops in Portland. The UCAPAWA is now Local 226 and an affiliate of the CIO. Nick stays and is elected secretary of the union. He travels around trying to gain control from the Americans that have taken over the unions.

### Part 3, Chapter 35 Analysis

When the boy asks Carlos to write a letter to his mother, Carlos realizes how similar their lives are. The boy never did anything to educate himself. Carlos wants to tell him that but doesn't. When Macario and Nick return from Mexico, having been unsuccessful in obtaining visas for Spain, Macario stays in California to be near his brother. Nick goes back to work in the labor movement.



## **Part 3, Chapter 36**

### **Part 3, Chapter 36 Summary**

Carlos is recovering slowly. He is able to walk and he helps care for the other patients. He continues his education through reading, as Eileen continues to bring him books. After two years in the hospital, Carlos wants to leave. He asks about being transferred to a sanitarium and his request is denied. He tells Macario of the situation and Macario decides to take Carlos home. They can care for him at home since Macario is working.

### **Part 3, Chapter 36 Analysis**

Carlos begins to understand racism and discrimination from his readings. He is refused a transfer to a sanitarium because he arrived in the United States as a minor. The system discriminates against immigrants in this way. He is afraid to live at home with Macario and the others caring for him, but he doesn't want to stay in the hospital.



## Part 3, Chapter 37

### Part 3, Chapter 37 Summary

Carlos is afraid to leave the hospital because it is the only place where he has found peace since he has been in America. In the hospital he always has food and a place to sleep. He knows that life on the outside will be different. He is determined to try to make it work this time. Carlos leaves the hospital and lives in a small room with Macario and Victor. They decide to find another place without stairs, since Carlos has a stiff leg. They face blatant discrimination in the area they look in. Jose, who is now married with a son named after Carlos, comes to visit. Jose takes Carlos to meet his wife and son. Carlos becomes friends with Jose's sister-in-law, Teresa.

The only place they can move to is the red light district. They find themselves right back in the same kind of world that they tried to escape from. The doctor who cared for Carlos in the hospital comes to visit and tells him he doesn't have long to live. If he stays in the environment they are in he will have five years at the most. Carlos is not prepared for this news. Macario says he will stay by Carlos' side until the end. Carlos can't work with his stiff leg and partially paralyzed arm. All he can do is write.

### Part 3, Chapter 37 Analysis

Carlos is worried about the burden he will be on Macario when he leaves the hospital. The hospital represented a place of safety to him, the only stability he has had in America. The hospital is the only place where he has always had food and a place to sleep. When he leaves the hospital he hopes the outside world will be a better place, but he finds that it isn't. They face such outright discrimination and hatred when they try to rent lodgings in a better neighborhood that Carlos can't understand how his brother can still be polite.

When the doctor comes to visit him, Carlos is stunned to find he has, at most, five years to live if they remain in the present environment. His brother vows to stay by his side and help him.



## Part 4, Chapter 38

### Part 4, Chapter 38 Summary

Carlos finds escape in the public library reading books. He wants to write but he doesn't know how to begin. He meets Ronald Patterson, a poet, at the library and they become friends. Ronald lends Carlos his magazines to read. He attends a meeting with Ronald and a Jewish girl. The purpose of the meeting is the unification of the various minorities so that they can unite with the progressives and labor unions. Carlos feels that Filipinos should join this movement. Jose and Carlos are referred to Anna Dozier who directs them to a Filipino communist. He tells them that the only way they can accomplish anything is if they join the Communist Party. There is a meeting of Filipinos the following Sunday to consider the course they should take. Should they join the Communist Party to try to achieve their goals of equality? Jose and Carlos decide to travel around California to see what the sentiment of the Filipino community is. The Filipino communist comes to see Carlos before he and Jose leave on their trips and tells them they can't establish a separate unit within the Party. After they leave, Carlos begins his trip. He is happy to be traveling again.

### Part 4, Chapter 38 Analysis

Carlos is trying to find something to do with his life since he can't work with his physical disabilities. The meeting he attends with Patterson regarding unification with other minorities stirs his social agitation again. He and Jose's meeting with the Filipino communist leaves them divided as to what the best course of action is. Macario suggests they each take separate trips to see what the Filipino community wants. Carlos, who did nothing but wander from place to place before his hospitalization, is happy to be traveling again. This, after all, is the only life he has known in America.



## Part 4, Chapter 39

### Part 4, Chapter 39 Summary

Carlos goes to San Fernando where there is a large population of citrus fruit pickers. He goes to see the leader of the crew. The leader is out so he spends time talking to the wife. The wife recognizes Carlos from some of his published articles and poems. Carlos hears the crew leader's story; how he fought in World War I and then finds that he can't become a citizen or buy land. Carlos spends the rest of the time talking to the workers. They drive him to the bus station and he goes on to Bakersfield.

There are not many workers around in Bakersfield since the grape harvest is still several months off. He discovers the organization there with three Filipino contractors controlling nearly 3,000 Filipino workers. Carlos goes to see one of the contractors, whose name is Cabao. When he finishes his visit, he travels again, this time to Stockton. There is a strike in progress when he arrives. He finds Claro leading a boycott of Japanese stores. It is Claro who, many years ago, told Carlos to leave and to never come back until he was ready to fight for their people.

### Part 4, Chapter 39 Analysis

Carlos travels in California bring him into contact with many people from his past. He talks to the different groups about their problems and tactics. He sees different elements teaming up in support of common goals. He doesn't understand the reasons for all of the things that they do, even when they try to explain it to him. From his point of view, what they win on one side, they lose on another.

## **Part 4, Chapter 40**

### **Part 4, Chapter 40 Summary**

The next morning Claro shows him the newspaper headlines about the strike being led by a Filipino communist. The article doesn't mention Carlos' name. They tell Carlos he must leave immediately and they drive him out of town. He boards a bus for San Francisco. While sleeping on the bus, he dreams of his childhood in Binalonan.

### **Part 4, Chapter 40 Analysis**

Carlos is stunned at the newspaper headlines, portraying him as a Filipino communist. He leaves for the good of the strike, not wanting to endanger it in any way. He wonders who planted the story.



# Part 4, Chapter 41

## Part 4, Chapter 41 Summary

Carlos returns to Los Angeles where he and Jose call for a meeting of Filipino labor leaders to discuss their common problems and to organize a committee that could work on those problems. The meeting is held at the house of the Filipino communist and is attended by 21 people. They want to form an independent organization for the West Coast Filipinos. They create an organization called the Committee for Protection of Filipino Rights (CPFR). The major goal of the committee is to obtain citizenship for Filipinos.

Carlos is busy writing articles and news items for the cause. They help publish Ganzo's paper. The CPFR grows to have chapters in every important city on the West Coast and a bill is introduced in Congress for Filipino citizenship. The sponsor is Representative Vito Marcantonio. Carlos takes on speaking engagements to support the bill. Carlos still harbors hatred of the middle and upper classes, dating back to his childhood in the Philippines. After one engagement a woman invites him to her house and offers to sponsor a party for the cause. The bill is eventually defeated, killed by the anti-Filipino groups on the West Coast.

Macario becomes ill. All of his money has gone into the support of the Filipino citizenship cause. Carlos takes to prowling the streets at night. One night he steals a diamond ring from a house and sells it. He buys three months worth of food and pays the rent with the money. He knows he has to leave or he will resort to a life of crime.

## Part 4, Chapter 41 Analysis

Carlos and the others are truly committed to improving the lives of the Filipinos. They form an organization and fight for Filipino citizenship. They all work in support of the bill but anti-Filipino factions eventually kill it. They are all bitter and disappointed.

When Macario becomes ill, Carlos resorts to theft to raise money for the rent and food. He steals a diamond ring and sells it for money. He knows if he remains in this situation, that he will resort to crime. He sits down at the table one night and begins to write.





## Part 4, Chapter 42

### Part 4, Chapter 42 Summary

After the Filipino citizenship bill fails, Rios, Lacson and Dozier begin to convert the CPFR chapters into the Communist Party. Jose wants the CPFR to affiliate with the American League for Peace and Democracy but Carlos is losing interest. He is busy working and caring for his sick brother. He reads to him every night and Macario tells him that he can become a writer.

As Macario's condition worsens, Carlos tries to find Amado and can't locate him. He finally gives Macario enough money to live on for two months, telling him that he is leaving for the north. "I was not running away from him because he was sick and helpless. I was running away from myself, because I was afraid myself. I was afraid of all that was despairing in that swamp of filth - that dark dungeon of inquisitional terror and fear." (pg. 294)

### Part 4, Chapter 42 Analysis

Carlos is disheartened after the failure of the Filipino citizenship bill that they had all worked so hard for. He watches as the CPFR falls into the control of the communist party. He has very little interest in the CPFR, especially with Macario so ill. His decision to leave his sick brother's side seems to be his usual reaction to problems - that is to flee. He can't deal with the kind of life they have.



## Part 4, Chapter 43

### Part 4, Chapter 43 Summary

Carlos climbs into a boxcar and heads for Bakersfield. Arriving in Bakersfield, he sits in a Mexican bar, trying to figure out what to do. He falls asleep there and when he wakes up, his brother Amado is there. Carlos learns that Amado thought he had died during surgery. When they are in his room, Carlos finds out that Amado is not well. Carlos wins some money gambling and gives it to Amado who says he will go to Los Angeles to take care of Macario.

Carlos goes on to Portland. Nick comes to pick him up and take him to his room. He learns that the CPFR is dead in Portland. Carlos becomes ill and starts coughing up blood.

### Part 4, Chapter 43 Analysis

Carlos is wandering around again, going from place to place. He unexpectedly meets Amado in Bakersfield. Amado does not have the kind of life that Carlos thought he did. He is poor and ill. Carlos gives him money to go to Los Angeles to be with Macario. In Portland, he meets Nick who tells him that the CPFR movement is dead. They can't work within the existing framework there. They need new men who are not involved in the labor movement or in the Communist Party. Carlos panics when he begins to cough up blood. The doctor had told him he had five years to live. He is afraid that he is now dying.



## Part 4, Chapter 44

### Part 4, Chapter 44 Summary

Nick and Carlos share a bottle of wine. Carlos is better in a month and leaves Portland and travels back to Los Angeles. He meets a girl on the train named Mary and brings her back to the apartment in Los Angeles. He finds Victor, Jose, Amado and Ganzo all sleeping there. Carlos learns that Nick was kicked-out of his union post and went to Alaska. Their CPRF and labor organizations are taken over by reactionaries. Conrado comes to live with them in the Los Angeles apartment. Mary eventually leaves without saying a word and soon they all depart for different places, hoping for better conditions. Macario is well enough to work but is looking old and haggard. One evening Macario and Amado get into a fight. Carlos strikes Amado with a pan to keep him from stabbing Macario with a knife. Amado packs his bags and leaves.

### Part 4, Chapter 44 Analysis

Upon his arrival in Los Angeles, Carlos finds that life continues as usual. They are all living in a group home again. Some of them are working, some of them aren't. Most of them leave over time as they meet women and go to live with them. When Macario and Amado fight over Amado's friends, Carlos tries to stay out of it until Amado grabs a knife. He then strikes Amado to keep him from killing Macario. Amado packs his belongings and leaves. Carlos tries to talk to Amado but he won't talk to him. Carlos feels that he has gone against family and cultural traditions in striking an older brother.



## Part 4, Chapter 45

### Part 4, Chapter 45 Summary

Carlos begins to write short stories and sketches of life in America. He also writes poetry and essays. His works begin to be published in Manila and he starts to be paid for his writing.

When the landlady of their apartment house dies, a new one takes over and evicts all of the tenants. Rather than go through the ordeal of finding another apartment, Carlos and Macario move into a hotel room. One night they attend a dinner for a Filipino educator. During the dinner, the police walk in and tell them all to put their hands above their heads. After searching them all, the police leave. Carlos is blind with rage over the incident. He wanders around again and ends up in San Francisco where Ganzo finds him. Ganzo takes him back to Los Angeles and tells him to keep writing. He can write articles for Ganzo's paper.

### Part 4, Chapter 45 Analysis

Carlos begins to have success in his writing career, being published in Manila. He also starts to be paid for his writing. When he attends a dinner for a Filipino educator, police interrupt and search all attendees. Carlos is outraged by the incident and once again becomes physically violent when confronted with discrimination. His brother has to take a gun away from him. He goes on a drinking binge and is found by Ganzo in San Francisco. Ganzo tells him he must write because it is the best way he can help their people. He has to succeed in telling their story. He is their only hope.



## Part 4, Chapter 46

### Part 4, Chapter 46 Summary

Carlos looks for work in Los Angeles. He finds work in San Pedro in the fish canneries and meets Nick there. Nick is working at another cannery. Carlos also writes for Ganzo's paper without a byline or any payment. Nick invites him to a meeting one night at the home of a Yugoslav couple. More and more workers begin attending their meetings.

After the canning season ends, Carlos moves on to Nipomo for the pea picking season. He starts a school for the workers. Carlos turns the class over to another worker and leaves before the end of the season and goes to Betteravia to start another school. Carlos travels around starting workers' schools and turning them over to one of the workers when he leaves.

He finds Jose in Monterey and is eager to catch up on the news of the past year. He finds they are all doing the same thing, including his brother Macario. Neighbors and friends arrive at Jose's house and they have a celebration.

### Part 4, Chapter 46 Analysis

Carlos stumbles into the same technique that the others do. He begins to hold classes, teaching the workers about democracy, history and other things. He eventually turns the class over to one of the workers and goes to another place and repeats the process. He runs into Jose in Monterey and finds he has been doing the same thing along with others. Carlos is happy and excited and finds they have found something that unites all of the workers.



## Part 4, Chapter 47

### Part 4, Chapter 47 Summary

Carlos is in Los Angeles when Pearl Harbor is attacked. He goes to Macario's room when Jose and his son arrive. They all discuss the situation. That night they go to a bar and find themselves in the middle of a brawl. They all go to recruiting centers to volunteer but are refused because they are Filipinos. When the Philippines and Binalonan are attacked they start a movement to allow Filipinos to serve in the armed forces. They want to fight to free their country of birth, especially since many still have family there. Eventually President Roosevelt signs a special proclamation allowing Filipinos to fight in the armed forces.

### Part 4, Chapter 47 Analysis

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Filipino group finds they cannot volunteer to serve in the armed forces. They try again when the Philippines is attacked. They want to help fight for the Philippines since they have family and friends there. Finally, they begin a movement to allow Filipinos to join the armed services. President Roosevelt eventually signs a special proclamation allowing Filipinos to serve in the armed forces. This is the first victory the Filipinos have won in their battle for civil rights.



## Part 4, Chapter 48

### Part 4, Chapter 48 Summary

Carlos receives a letter from a publisher informing him that his book of poems is wanted to be published. Carlos can no longer work because of the increasing paralysis of his right hand. His first book, *Letter from America*, is published. He finds his brother Amado and wants to show him the book. He is sitting with two girls at a bar and one of them starts ripping the pages from the book. Amado hits the girl. Amado shows up at Carlos' room a few days later to say good-bye. He says he is joining the Navy. Carlos walks him to the bus and Amado hands Carlos an envelope with a note and \$25 in it. A few days later Macario announces that he is going to join the Army. He finds that Macario has left an envelope with \$200, a social security card and a picture of himself. He packs Macario's books.

### Part 4, Chapter 48 Analysis

Carlos finally has his first book published. He finds his brother Amado to show it to him. They have an incident with one of the girls with Amado. Within a few days, both of Carlos's brothers enlist in the armed forces. Amado leaves for the Navy and Macario leaves for the Army. Carlos is now alone. He feels as if his family has ended. If they ever meet again, it will not be the same.



## **Part 4, Chapter 49**

### **Part 4, Chapter 49 Summary**

Carlos leaves for Portland the next morning. As he travels on the bus, he watches the scenery knowing that no one will ever destroy his faith in America.

### **Part 4, Chapter 49 Analysis**

The day after Macario leaves, Carlos departs for Portland. His faith in America is restored and he knows that it can never be destroyed. Carlos feels that he belongs.





# Characters

## Carlos

Carlos is called Allos by his family and friends in the Philippines. He is the main character of the book. He describes his early life in the Philippines, where children are put to work as soon as they can. He does what he can to help his family survive. He lives and works on the farm with his father while his mother lives in the town with his older brother and sister. When he leaves the farm he helps his mother in her trading business, traveling from town to town selling what they can. At the age of thirteen he leaves for the town of Baguio where he works as a houseboy for two years. He returns to Binalonan to help out the family then spends a year in Lingayen with a cousin who is attending school. He returns to say goodbye to his family and then leaves for America.

Carlos arrives in America and, unable to pay the hotel bill, is sold to a contractor and spends the season working at a fish cannery in Alaska. When he returns to the mainland, he begins to roam the western part of the country, going from one crop-picking job to another. Eventually, he and some of the people he meets become active in the labor movement. He wants to improve the living and working conditions of Filipinos. In the middle of his involvement with the labor movement, he is hospitalized for two years with tuberculosis.

When Carlos comes out of the hospital, he and others form a committee concerned with gaining rights and improving living conditions for Filipinos. Their organization promotes citizenship for Filipinos. A bill is presented in Congress for this purpose but is killed by anti-Filipino interests. When the Philippines is attacked, the Filipino organization starts to push for Filipinos to be allowed to serve in the armed forces. The president signs a special proclamation allowing them to do so. This is their first major victory.

Carlos Bulosan is a poet. After he learns English, he tries his hand at different kinds of writing. He writes articles for the Filipino newspaper during the labor movement and during the movement for Filipino citizenship. He writes most of his poetry after he is out of the hospital. His first book of poetry, *Letter from America*, is published shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

## The Father

"The father" refers to Carlos' father. His name is never given throughout the book. The father is a typical hardworking Filipino peasant. He owns four hectares of land that supports the family until he starts to sell it to a moneylender in order to pay for Macario's school expenses. He works anyway he can to provide for his family.



## Autilia Sampayan

Autilia Sampayan is Carlos' mother. She lives in town with Amado and the little sister while her husband works and lives on the farm. She works when she can, selling fruits, vegetables and other things whenever she can to try to help support the family. She realizes that her sons are unhappy because of their poverty. She also knows they all want to go to school but they stay to help her and the family.

## Leon

Leon is the oldest son. He is fighting a war in Europe when Carlos is born. Carlos has seen a picture of him but has never met him until he returns to the farm. Leon marries and moves to Luzon. The only time Carlos ever sees him again is when he rides by his house on a bus. Leon and his family are waiting outside to wave as the bus rides by.

## Amado

Amado is the youngest brother. He lives in town with the mother and sister and attends grade school. He walks off the farm one day after being struck by his father for beating the water buffalo. He finds a job as a janitor in Binalonan. He takes jobs around the area. He works at a sugar plantation in Bulacan, and then collects tickets in the public market. Even though he is estranged from his father, he still helps the family out financially. Amado secures a job on a ship and works his way to America.

When Carlos finds him in America he is living in a room with a group of people. He and his friend Alfredo are bootleggers. After bootlegging, they get into gambling. Amado. Amado also travels from place to place. He finds work with a big-time racketeer lawyer and tells Carlos he has turned his back on his people since he is living the life of luxury with the lawyer. After several years he runs into Carlos again in Bakersfield. He learns that brother Macario is ill and Carlos gives him money to go to Los Angeles to care for Macario. After the proclamation allowing Filipinos to serve in the armed forces, Amado enlists in the Navy.

## Luciano

Luciano is the second oldest brother. He serves three years in the Philippine Scouts division of the United States Army and is diagnosed with tuberculosis in the Scouts. He returns home knowing he will receive a pension. Since he can use a typewriter and other equipment, he has no problems finding a job in Binalonan. He spends time with his brother Carlos and teaches him things about nature and catching birds. Luciano is interested in politics and is elected mayor of the town. He marries and has children. When Carlos comes to say good-bye before leaving for Manila, Luciano tells him never to come back. He wants his brother to have a better life. Luciano dies of tuberculosis ten years after his return home from the service.



## Macario

Macario is the third oldest brother in the family. He is sent away to high school and is the hope of the family that struggles to pay his expenses. When he graduates, he obtains a good teaching job in Binalonan and helps the family pay back the moneylender so they can keep their land. He runs into problems with a girl who wants him to marry her and he loses his job. He finds a job in Manila, but she follows him there. He eventually immigrates to America.

Macario is living in Los Angeles when his brother Carlos appears. They have a group of people that live in one room. Whoever has money pays the rent and buys food. Macario works whenever he can find work. Macario is not as involved in the labor movement as his brother is. He takes care of his brother when Carlos is sick until he tries to leave for Spain to fight the fascists. He comes back to Los Angeles when he can't obtain a visa. Macario does get involved in the Filipino citizenship cause and gives all of his money to the cause. Macario enlists in the Army when the president's special proclamation allows the enlistment of Filipinos.

## Irene

Irene is the younger sister of Carlos who dies as a baby.

## Felix Razon

Razon first appears as a peasant boy who warns Carlos and his mother to leave the field in Tayug because a peasant revolt is about to begin. He and Carlos meet again in America when they both work on the literary magazine. He works in the labor movement and is part of their command. Razon is the only one to obtain a visa for Spain and goes there to fight.

## Miss Mary Strandon

Miss Strandon is the artist who has a house in Baquio and hires Carlos as her houseboy. When she finds that he likes books, she arranges for him to work at the library also.

## Marcelo

Marcelo makes the journey to America at the same time as Carlos. They meet on the boat. Marcelo is from San Manuel. He learns that his brother died the week before Marcelo arrives in America. Marcelo, like Carlos, is sold to the contractor had shipped to Alaska to work in the cannery, when they can't pay their hotel bill. He last sees Carlos in a bar brawl in Seattle.



## Conrado Torres

Conrado is a journalism student at the University of Oregon who first meets Carlos at the Alaskan cannery. Conrado is interested in organizing the workers and is part of the command group that works for union organization. He is also active in working for the Filipino citizenship bill.

## Alfredo

Alfredo is a friend of Amado. He and Amado work as bootleggers and then as gamblers. Alfredo eventually lives off of prostitutes in the Santa Barbara area.

## Nick

Nick is a friend of Macario's who is living in the hotel room with the group when Carlos arrives. He is also Jose's brother. Nick is prominent in the union organization movement and serves as a union official until he is ousted.

## Claro

Claro owns a restaurant in Stockton when he first meets Carlos. He feeds Carlos and warns him about the Chinese gambling lords and dance halls. When Claro meets Carlos again, Claro is leading a strike of asparagus workers in Stockton. Carlos has to flee the area since the newspapers described him as a Filipino communist without mentioning his name.

## Jose

Jose is Nick's brother and a friend of Macario. He is also a member of the group living in the hotel room with Macario when Carlos arrives. Jose travels around the western area of the U.S. looking for work with Carlos.

Jose loses a leg when he falls off a freight train that they are trying to jump onto. When Pascual has a stroke, Jose and Carlos take over the editorial functions on the Filipino newspaper, which they handle until Pascual dies and Lucille moves the paper to San Francisco. He is also involved in the short-lived literary magazine their group published with Felix Razon. He is with Carlos the night in San Jose when they are kidnapped and beaten. Jose is active in the union organization movement, the Filipino citizenship movement and the movement to allow Filipinos to serve in the armed forces. He marries and has a son.



## Mariano

Mariano is also a friend of Macario's and a part of the group living in the hotel room when Carlos arrives. Mariano is also active in the union organization movement and the Filipino citizenship movement.

## Pascual

Pascual is a San Luis Obispo Filipino lawyer and newspaper publisher. He is also a socialist. He gives Carlos the name of Carl and has him write for his paper. When he has a stroke Jose and Carlos take over the editorial functions and Gazamen and Pascual's wife, Lucille, perform the business manager functions for the paper.

## Lucille

Lucille is Pascual's wife. After his death, she moves the newspaper to San Francisco and runs it there.

## Gazamen

Gazamen is also a member of the group that is living in the hotel room when Carlos arrives. Gazamen comes and goes and he also travels around working wherever he finds a job. He works for the Filipino paper owned by Pascual and helps Lucille with the business management functions after Pascual has a stroke. Gazamen is also a labor activist and a part of the command group that has assigned territories - he is assigned to Portland. When Jose and Carlos were kidnapped and beaten, Gazamen was captured someplace else in California.

## Alice Odell

Alice meets Carlos after he is diagnosed with tuberculosis. She is a writer who becomes friends with Carlos and visits while he is ill and brings him books. She leaves for a job on the East Coast and has her sister Eileen visit Carlos and bring books. She moves to the Soviet Union.

## Eileen Odell

Eileen is Alice's sister. Alice asks Eileen to visit Carlos and bring him books when she leaves. Eileen and Carlos become friends with Eileen visiting every week when Carlos is in the hospital for two years and continues for a total of three years.



## **Victor**

Victor is Macario's roommate when Carlos is released from the hospital. He helps care for Carlos after he returns home.

## **Ronald Patterson**

Patterson is a poet who Carlos meets at the library and the two become friends. He has a huge collection of magazines that he lends out to Carlos and his friends. Patterson takes Carlos to a meeting of people working for unity among minorities that leads to Carlos' involvement with the communists.



# Objects/Places

## Farm in Barrio

The Bulosan family farm consists of four hectares of land located outside the town of Binalonan. The father and Carlos live on the farm and grow the food for the family until the moneylenders repossess it. Most of Carlos' early years are spent on the farm with trips into town to visit his mother.

## Binalonan

Binalonan is a town in the Philippines where the mother lives in a house with Amado and Carlos' sisters. It is a part of the rural Philippine culture of the time. Binalonan and the farm are the setting for the early part of the book.

## Puzzorobio

Puzzorobio is a town in the Philippines, a short distance from Binalonan. Carlos accompanies his mother there to sell beans. It is where Carlos first comes into contact with the middle class and develops his hatred of the middle class.

## San Manuel

San Manuel is a town a short distance from Binalonan where Carlos and his mother go to work in the mungo harvest.

## Tayug

Tayug is a neighboring town where rice is grown. Carlos and his mother go there to work in the harvest. It is where Felix Razon first appears as a child and warns them of a coming revolt. When the peasant revolt begins, Carlos, his sister and mother hide until it is calm enough for them to leave for Binalonan.

## Mangusmana

Mangusmana is the home of Carlos' maternal grandmother. When she dies, Carlos and his father go there to work the land, since the father has lost his land to the moneylenders. It is also the place where the father buys land and the family moves to right before Carlos leaves for America.



## **Baguio**

Baguio is a town where Carlos goes when he first leaves Binalonan. It is where he spends two years working as a houseboy and working at the library. His love of books is cultivated there.

## **Lingayen**

Lingayen is the seaport town where Carlos' cousin attends high school. Carlos moves there for a year with his cousin and works on a fishing boat.

## **Seattle, Washington**

Seattle is the town where Carlos and Marcelo arrive in America. It is here where they cannot pay their hotel bill and are sold into a labor contract for a cannery in Alaska. Seattle is the scene of the barroom brawl that causes Carlos to flee. It is also the place where Carlos commits his first act of theft when he steals the sheets from the hotel and sells them. Carlos and his group return to Seattle on and off during the book either to work or for the labor movement and Filipino rights activities.

## **Cannery in Alaska**

When Marcelo and Carlos cannot pay their hotel bill in Seattle they are sold to a labor contractor who sends them to an Alaskan cannery to work for a year. It is here that Carlos meets Conrado Torres who becomes a part of the labor movement. The characters return there to work on and off and to carry on the union activities.

## **Stockton, California**

Stockton and the Stockton area is the scene for quite a bit of activity in the book. It is an agricultural area with crop harvesting being done by Filipino and other workers. It is an area in which Carlos and others frequently work as crop-pickers. It is also the scene of their labor movement activities.

## **Klamath Falls, Oregon**

Klamath Falls is the town where Carlos is arrested, beaten and robbed. The next morning he is forced to walk to the California border. His hand is injured in the beating and results in partial paralysis.





## **San Luis Obispo, California**

The San Luis Obispo area is also a frequent setting for the book. This is where Carlos first meets his brother Amado, who, along with Alfredo, is a bootlegger. Years later, his friend Max shoots the man living with his wife there. After that, Pascual and his wife own the house, where they publish the Filipino newspaper.

## **Los Angeles, California**

Los Angeles is where Carlos finds his brother Macario living. The Filipinos live as groups in a room whenever somebody has money. They work whenever they can find work. Los Angeles is where the discrimination and outright hatred of Filipinos is so intense that they can't rent rooms or houses anywhere but in the red light district. Carlos spends two years in the county hospital with tuberculosis. Los Angeles is where Macario settles so the others keep returning there.

## **San Diego, California**

The San Diego area is an agricultural area, especially in Imperial Valley. Jose and Carlos go there to work but don't stay long.

# Themes

## Search for a Better Life

Conditions in the rural Philippines are harsh for the peasants. There is hardship, exploitation and subsistence existence. The peasant children have no childhood because they are working in the fields or in the market or home with the parents at an early age. The boys leave their parents' home in their early teens to find work and a better life, trying to escape the harsh and hopeless environment. Their families know and expect this. Carlos' mother tells him several times that he can go and that they are poor. They go from menial job to menial job trying to eke out a living. The parents can't give them a better life in a subsistence farming environment and the parents and children know this.

As a result of the transfer of the Philippines to the United States, there is free public education if the student's family can afford to pay the student's travel and living expenses. The children all want to attend school but their families cannot afford it. Many peasant families work feverishly to send at least one son to high school. Carlos' father has to sell his land so that Macario can finish high school with the hope that he will return, work and make their lives better.

There is social agitation in the rural Philippines as indicated by the peasant revolts. The United States, to the peasants, means equality. Equality is something they don't have in the Philippines. Many of the Filipinos come to America expecting to find equality. Instead they find discrimination, hatred and horrible living conditions. They wander from place to place trying to find work to feed and clothe themselves. They find themselves living as groups in hotel rooms if one or two people are working and can pay the rent. The only time Carlos is guaranteed food and a place to sleep is when he is in the hospital.

They find the system stacked against them here as Carlos' attempts to transfer to a sanitarium illustrate. He arrives in the country as a minor with no parents as many Filipinos did. Therefore, the technicalities in the regulations do not allow him to transfer to a sanitarium. They are not allowed to become citizens, to own land or to serve in the armed services. Filipinos can't even join the armed forces and fight to free the Philippines until President Roosevelt signs a special proclamation. They all hope to find a better life and they all keep looking.

## Tradition

The role of tradition is strong in a peasant culture. The role of tradition in the peasant culture is evident from the beginning when Leon marries the peasant girl. It is tradition for the new husband to signal with black smoke that his bride is a virgin. Leon doesn't signal and the townspeople break into the house and drag the woman out and start to



beat her. When Leon and his father try to intervene, they too are beaten. This is the cultural tradition of the peasants. It is tradition for peasants to live in the environment that they live in with harsh subsistence farming and exploitation from the society around them. It is tradition for the children to work on the farm or in the parent's business or to do the household chores, including the cooking. It is tradition for the barrio farmers to slave for the hacienderos. The older generation doesn't question the living conditions much because this is the way it has always been. They don't know any other way of life.

This tradition begins to clash with modernity in the Philippines as the archipelago has been transferred to the United States and as the peasant children acquire education. They return to their peasant village filled with ideas of equality that they learn in their high school education. Their parents don't fully understand it all but they begin to understand how they are being exploited, as Carlos' father did when the moneylenders took his land.

Tradition also follows them to America. This is evident when Carlos finds his brother Amado and Macario fighting in the kitchen. A loud crash brings him running as the kitchen table collapses onto the floor. The two brothers are fighting over Amado's friends. Carlos does not want to get involved and be forced to take a side. When Amado grabs a knife to use against Macario, Carlos has no choice. He hits Amado over the head with a pan. Amado packs his bags and leaves, refusing to accept an apology from Carlos. Carlos is upset. Tradition means that he had no right to hit his older brother. It is taboo according to tradition. Carlos views the incident and his actions as an omen that he will never be happy again, so even though they have left the Philippines, they still have their cultural traditions in America.

## Survival

One recurring theme throughout the book is the struggle for survival, first in the Philippines and then in America. In the Philippines, the harsh social and living conditions result in the rural peasants being kept at the subsistence level. The whole family must work in order to survive. Subsistence farming is the rule, not the exception. The peasants slave with primitive methods just to grow enough food to feed their families. The wives work at what they can in order to bring in food and money. Sons return or are kept on the farm to help with the farm work in order for them to have enough food.

In America, conditions are not much better for the Filipino immigrants. They take whatever jobs they can find to earn a pittance of income. They live in filthy group conditions where most of them sleep on the floor. Whoever is working pays the rent and buys the food that feeds them all. Like Carlos, they travel from place to place looking for work and better living conditions. They survive by helping each other. Carlos is miserable living in the conditions they have to live in but it is the only way they can survive. They leave the Philippines to escape the living conditions and find themselves just as miserable or more miserable in America. In addition, they face the hatred and discrimination of the white population.



# Style

## Points of View

The book is an autobiography, written in the first person. The reader views everything through Carlos' eyes and sees everything from his perspective. This allows the reader to understand Carlos better and to understand what he experienced. When the book opens at the farm in the barrio, the reader sees a five year old trying to find out if the man approaching them is his brother, a brother he has only seen pictures of and has never met. The reader watches as Carlos becomes aware of his mother and her living conditions when he sees her admiring the fancy clothing of the middle class, knowing that she and her children will never have anything like that.

Even though the book is written from the first person point of view, the reader can still understand the feelings and actions of other characters through the eyes of the main character. Carlos interprets the actions and events for the reader. There is enough description given for the reader to comprehend the living conditions of the people and to understand their frustration and rage.

## Setting

The early part of the book is set in the Philippines - mostly the area in and around rural Binalonan. This is the birthplace of Carlos and the home of the Bulosan family. The father and Carlos live on the farm in the barrio while the mother, school-aged Amado and the baby sister live in the town. As the mother and Carlos move around with the trading business and crop harvest, there is little description of places provided by the author. Most of the emphasis is on the people and the work, not much on the surroundings. As Carlos moves around, it is the same situation. The emphasis is more on the people than on the places.

Once Carlos immigrates to America, the setting changes to the Western part of the United States and Alaska. The longest Carlos stays in one place is when he is sick and hospitalized for two years in Los Angeles. Aside from this, Carlos and his group are constantly moving from place to place in Washington, Oregon and California. Carlos also travels to Montana, Nevada and New Mexico. Most of the setting is in various places in California as he moves around from place to place looking for work and then with his social activism activities for labor organization and Filipino citizenship.

## Language and Meaning

The book is written in the first person in clear language that is easy to understand and quick and easy to read. There is no jargon of any kind and very few foreign terms used. When they are used, they are defined very well so the reader does not wonder what the term means. The book does not contain any vulgar language. There is emotionality and



the reader can sense Carlos' rage at the treatment the Filipinos receive. Carlos has faith in America and the reader sees this come through several times, even though one wonders how, at times, given the treatment the Filipinos received. His purpose in writing the book is to tell their story.

Bulosan began writing his autobiography when he was hospitalized in Los Angeles. Since he comes to this country with few belongings, he writes the book mostly from memory. He never mentions keeping a diary or notes or having any papers that he has to keep track of. He must have been able to reference newspaper reports of various activities once he was released from the hospital but no mention is made of this.

## Structure

The structure of *America is in the Heart* is straightforward and simple. The book is divided into four parts and consists of 49 chapters. The chapters are short, some only two or three pages, but each covers an event in a particular place or are transitional as he travels from place to place and meets people on buses and trains. There are no pictures in the book. For the most part, the chapters are chronological. There is no firm grasp of time in the book since he never mentions a year or any dates. The end of the book when Pearl Harbor is bombed is the only firm indication of a year. The only other indication was the beginning of World War I. There is no mention of age except for the children in the Philippines. In spite of this, the book still moves in a linear fashion without any backtracking. The only backtracking the reader has to do is to check on characters or places. There are so many people that Carlos meets as he travels and works in different places, that there are times when a character has to be searched for to see what his background is. There is no index or Table of Contents.

Bulosan does not include the surnames of many of the characters, except for a few like Conrado Torres, Felix Razon and Alice and Eileen Odell. This isn't a problem since there aren't any with the same names. In the case of the father, he never does give the father's name and the reader doesn't learn the mother's name until Carlos has been in America for over a year and his brother, Amado, wants Carlos to prove he is his brother. This doesn't really cause problems for the reader. However, in spite of this, the book is still easy to read and relatively easy to follow. There is more information and history with dates presented in the Introduction as the writer of the Introduction, Carey McWilliams, tries to provide some perspective for the reader.

## Quotes

"...*America is in the Heart* is a deeply moving account of what it is like to be treated as a criminal in a strange and alien society - one to which the immigrant has been drawn precisely because of the attraction of its ideals. "I know deep down in my heart," he wrote, "that I am an exile in America...I feel like a criminal running away from a crime I did not commit. And this crime is that I am a Filipino in America" Introduction, pg. vii

"Popular education was spreading throughout the archipelago and this opened up new opportunities. It was a new and democratic system brought by the American government into the Philippines, and a nation hitherto illiterate and backward was beginning to awaken. In Spanish times education was something that belonged exclusively to the rulers and to some fortunate natives affluent enough to go to Europe. But the poor people, the peasants, were denied even the most elementary schooling. When the free education that the United States had introduced spread throughout the islands, every family who had a soon pooled its resources and sent him to school." Chapter 2, pg. 14

"There the peasants had been the victims of ruthless exploitation for years, dating back to the eighteenth century when Spanish colonizers instituted severe restrictive measures in order to impoverish the natives. So from then on the peasants became poorer each year and the landlords became richer at every harvest time. And the better part of it was that the landlord was always away, sometimes merely a name on a piece of paper." Chapter 3, pg. 23

"This family tragedy marked the beginning of my conscious life, when my responses to outward influences grew so acute that I almost wrecked my whole future. I became sensitive in the presence of poverty and degradation, so sensitive that my unexpressed feelings tempered my psychological relation to the world. It was only long afterward in a land far away, long after these conflicts were conquered and forged as a weapon against another chaos that threatened to plunge me into despair and rootlessness, that the full significance of our tragedy burst into a flaming reality and drove me, suddenly and inevitably, into the struggle for the fulfillment of the redeeming qualities which I believed were inherent in me." Chapter 4, pg. 29

"But the revolt in Tayug made me aware of the circumscribed life of the peasants through my brother Luciano, who explained its significance to me. I was determined to leave that environment and all its crushing forces, and if I were successful in escaping unscathed, I would go back someday to understand what it meant to be born of the peasantry. I would go back because I was a part of it, because I could not really escape from it no matter where I went or what became of me. I would go back to give significance to all that was starved and thwarted in my life." Chapter 8, pg. 62

"I came to know afterward that in many ways it was a crime to be a Filipino in California. I came to know that the public streets were not free to my people: we were stopped each time these vigilant patrolmen saw us driving a car. We were suspect each time we



were seen with a white woman. And perhaps it was this narrowing of our life into an island, into a filthy segment of American society, that had driven Filipinos like Doro inward, hating everyone and despising all positive urgencies toward freedom." Chapter 16, pg. 121

"I began to wonder if my life would always be one long flight from fear. When had I landed in America? It seemed so long ago. I crossed the green lawn of the new City Hall." Chapter 17, pg. 128

"It was not easy to understand why the Filipinos were brutal yet tender, not was it easy to believe that they had been made this way by the reality of America. I still lacked the knowledge to synthesize the heart-breaking tragedies. I had seen, and to project myself into their core so that I would be able to interpret them objectively. There were times when I found myself inextricably involved, not because I was drawn to this life by its swiftness and violence, but because I was a part and a product of the world in which it was born. I was swept by its tragic whirlpool, violently and inevitably; and it was only when I had become immune to violence and pain that I was able to project myself out of it. It was only then that I was able to integrate my experiences so that I could really find out what had happened to me in those tragic years." Chapter 20, pg. 152

"I knew, even then, that it was not natural for a man to hate himself, or to be afraid of himself. It was not natural, indeed, to run from goodness and beauty, which I had done so many times. It was not natural for him to be cruel and without compassion.

I had come to the crossroads of my life. But there was yet time to find my way. I was fortunate to find in Jose something that I called dignity- and in Pascual, at least in Part, a passion for abstract, universal ideas." Chapter 24, pg. 184

"'It has fallen upon us to inspire a united front among our people,' he said. 'We must win the backward elements over to our camp; but we must also destroy that which is corrupt among ourselves. These are the fundamentals of our time; but these are also the realities that we must grasp in full.'" Chapter 25, pg. 188

"I knew now. This violence had a broad social meaning; the one I had known earlier was a blind rebellion. It was perpetrated by men who had no place in the scheme of life. I felt a deep responsibility for Dagohey's death. But I left Seattle immediately when he was buried. I went to San Francisco where a meeting of Filipino trade unionists was scheduled." Chapter 30, pg. 222

"On the outside life was alien and unfriendly, and the summer days were long and the winter nights were sharp with cold. I was determined to face it again, but now with an unswerving intellectual weapon. Maybe I would win this time, and if I did - would I not create a legend of courage and valor that other poor young men could emulate?" Chapter 37, pg. 255

"I felt vast and immortal. Now he had used my native name again, I looked at him and knew that he meant it. I knew that he would help me live for a while so that I could write about our anguish and our hopes for a better America. I knew that if he died somewhere



in pursuit of what he had wanted to be, he would live again in me and in all the words that seized my mind." Chapter 37, pg. 261

"From now on, death or life, I would squeeze every minute to the last drop of activity, rushing toward millions of moments of death in the world." Chapter 44, pg. 299

"I felt it spreading through my being, warming me with its glowing reality. It came to me that no man - no one at all - could destroy my faith in America again. It was something that had grown out of my defeats and successes, something shaped by my struggles for a place in this vast land, digging my hands into the rich soil here and there, catching a freight to the north and to the south, seeking free meals in dingy gambling houses, reading a book that opened up words of heroic thoughts. It was something that grew out of the sacrifices and loneliness of my friends, of my brothers in America and my family in the Philippines - something that grew out of our desire to know America, and to become a part of her great tradition, and to contribute something toward her final fulfillment. I knew that no man could destroy my faith in America that had sprung from all our hopes and aspirations, ever." Chapter 49, pg. 326-327





## Topics for Discussion

In what ways are the Filipino peasants exploited? Who is doing the exploitation?

Who are the bacienderos? What role do they play in the exploitation?

What experience does Carlos have when he arrives in Seattle from Manila?

What is Carlos' role in the union movement?

How does Carlos change his method of trying to make workers aware of their social condition? What does he begin to do that is different, only to find others doing the same thing? Why is this method more effective?

Why did so many of Carlos' group's attempts at attaining social goals fail?

Why does everyone around Carlos want him to write? What do they want to accomplish?

Why does Carlos want to write? What does he hope to accomplish?

What is the first goal, aside from labor unions, that their Filipino group accomplishes?