

Sweet Thursday Study Guide

Sweet Thursday by John Steinbeck

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Plot Summary

Sweet Thursday is a novel and sequel to Cannery Row written by John Steinbeck. The story is set in a part of Monterey, California known as "Cannery Row". Doc comes home from the war only to find that everything in his hometown has changed and the people he knew are either dead or gone. The transformation of Doc's town leaves him lost, depressed, and without a sense of purpose. Although Doc doesn't know what has triggered this change within him, he is determined to get his life back and find happiness.

Doc is the owner of Western Biological Laboratories, he has always been content with his life until he returns from the war. Doc tries to get his life back together by gathering new specimens and instruments for his laboratory since but finds that although things are starting to look normal in his laboratory, they just don't feel the same. Doc's friends notice the change in him, and because he is loved so much by the community, they set out to "fix" him so that he can be happy again. Doc has become intrigued with the emotional reaction of octopi and has decided to write a paper about his findings. He has become obsessed with the idea of writing this paper, however, can't get the motivation to actually write it. Day after day, he sits in his laboratory with the intention of writing the paper with the excuse that doesn't have the right equipment or specimens to write the paper.

One day, a young lady named Suzy comes to the town. Suzy doesn't know anyone, doesn't have any money, and is only carrying a single suitcase with her. Within a few hours of being in Monterey, she gets a job at the Bear Flag, the local brothel.

Doc's friends that live at the Palace Flophouse, believe their home is owned by the owner of the local grocery store, Joseph and Mary. Joseph and Mary is a very smart Mexican man that has a background in illegal business. Mack, one of the flophouse occupants realizes that if Joseph and Mary finds out he owns the Palace Flophouse he will evict them. Mack comes up with a scheme that will make Doc happy again and keep anything from happening to his home. Mack and his friends will host a raffle where the proceeds will go towards the purchase of a new microscope for Doc and the raffle prize will be the flophouse. They will then rig the raffle so that Doc wins knowing that Doc wouldn't collect rent.

Meanwhile, Fauna being a matchmaker for the girls at the Bear Flag, has made the observation that Suzy and Doc would be good together. Fauna makes Doc take Suzy on a date and they both make a connection.

Mack and Fauna decide to make the raffle party a "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" theme with Suzy as Snow White. Fauna arranges an engagement ceremony for Doc and Suzy but the whole thing backfires when Suzy and Doc realize that they have feelings for each other and Suzy runs away. Ironically, when Doc wins the raffle, he tells Mack that Lee Chong had already deeded the flophouse to Mack so he was the owner.



Suzy leaves the Bear Flag and gets a job at the diner. Hazel, one of Doc's loyal friends, tries to get Suzy to work things out with Doc but she refuses, saying the only way she would ever talk to Doc is if he were injured. In the middle of the night, Hazel sneaks into Doc's laboratory and breaks Doc's arm.

When Suzy gets the news about Doc, she rushes to help him. Suzy tells Doc she will make the trip to collect specimens with him. Doc realizes Suzy is the one that he has been missing in his life and that with her he is happy. Doc and Suzy both drop their pride and confess their feelings to each other. As they are leaving, Doc's friends present him with his new microscope which is actually a telescope.



Chapter 1, What Happened In Between

Chapter 1, What Happened In Between Summary

In the Prologue, Mack and the boys are discussing the book "Cannery Row". Mack is suggesting improvements for the book such as chapter titles that allow the reader to know what the chapter is about without having to read the whole thing. Mack also states that he would like to know what the characters are like based on their actions and personality, not necessarily how they look.

Doc comes back to the Cannery Row in Monterey after the war. While Doc was gone his town had taken the fish catching limits lifted and in turn, caught all the fish leaving the Cannery Row a ghost town. Because Doc was drafted to fight in the war, he used this time to make friends and drink, without accepting any promotions. Upon return to Western Biological Laboratories, his home and laboratory, he finds that his friend Old Jingleballicks to whom he had entrusted the laboratory to while he was gone had simply abandoned the place and that it was now in ruins. Doc is furious with Old Jingleballicks but there isn't anything he can do about it at this time. He goes across the street to Lee Chong's Heavenly Flower Grocery to buy some beer. Once at the store he remembers that his friend Lee Chong no longer owns the place. He is greeted by Joseph and Mary, the new store owner, where he buys some Old Tennis Shoes beer and asks if his friend Mack is around. Joseph and Mary finds Mack and they go back to Western Biological where Mack proceeds to fill Doc in with everything that he has missed while out to war.

Their friend Gay, had been killed in an aircraft bombing in the war. Their friends left all of Gay's things exactly as they were in his room at the Palace Flophouse in his memory. Whitey No.1 was injured on the job and while recovering learned to play the harmonica. Whitey No. 2 had joined the Marines and it was said that he was awarded a bronze star but somehow there was no record of it. Their friend Eddie was found to be "technically dead" on his medical records, and because of this he was never drafted. While everyone went to war he stayed as the bartender at Café la Ida owned by Wide Ida.

Because Dora, the owner of the local brothel known as the Bear Flag, had died in her sleep, it was taken over by her sister Flora. Flora was actually a part owner of the Bear Flag and even though she used to run a mission in San Francisco, she found this business to be very similar. She made Bear Flag a "finishing school" where she prepared her girls to marry well and become ladies. Although her name was Flora, one day at the mission, a homeless man told her that she looked more like the "Fauna type" rather than a "Flora". She liked the name so much she kept it. Henri their friend loved his boat but he was afraid of the sea. Mack and his friends played a trick on Henri by gluing barnacles to his boat so that he would think that his boat would go off to sea while he slept. It scared him so much that he left town and sold the boat. Their friend Hazel had also gone to war and he even used the GI bill to go to the University of California to study astrophysics. Hazel had made a check mark on his application to get in, so once he was discovered he was kicked out of school even though the Department



wanted him to stay. Mack had stayed around doing the same he had always done until the government offered a reward to the person who could find a new source of uranium. Determined to find uranium deposits, he bought a Geiger counter. One day at the bus station, Mack's Geiger counter went off and he boarded the bus in hopes to find uranium. He followed his Geiger counter all across the country until one day he found out that his Geiger counter had been following the radium dial in one of the passenger's watch. Finally, they get to the subject of Lee Chong. Lee Chong was the owner of Grocery store and one of Mack and Doc's really good friends. Apparently Lee Chong had a dream of going off to sea and one day that is exactly what he did. He packed all his belongings, including all the goods of his store and went to sail the South Seas.

Chapter 1, What Happened In Between Analysis

The story's setting is post WWII in a part of Monterey, California known as "Cannery Row". The once prosperous canning town is deserted as they have over fished and now there is nothing left to can so the canneries sit abandoned. Doc comes home from the war only to find that everything in his hometown has changed and the people he knew are either dead or gone. The transformation of Doc's town leaves him lost, depressed, and without a sense of purpose. Although Doc doesn't know what has triggered this change within him, he is determined to get his life back and find true happiness.

In Chapter 1, Doc is back from the war and is trying to get his life back together and catch up on what he has missed so that he can get back to being the carefree content person he used to be. As Mack fills Doc in on what has changed, the reader can see how close their community is and how much Mack cares about it.



Chapter 2, The Troubled Life of Joseph and Mary

Chapter 2, The Troubled Life of Joseph and Mary Summary

Joseph and Mary is now the owner of Lee Chong's grocery. Joseph and Mary is a Mexican man from Los Angeles that dressed well, and was very smart. Unlike Doc who seemed to always get dragged into illegal things because of Mack and his friends, it seemed that Joseph and Mary didn't know how to do things any other way. Illicit activities had been the lifestyle of Mary and Joseph from the time that he was a young boy he was hustling the Navy pool halls, by the time that he was a teenager he got even deeper into his criminal activities that he decided it was time to change. He went to the Catholic Church to confess and try and change his ways. With the help of Father Murphy he got a job working as a gardener for the city in the town square. Although he tried to stay away from crime, it was too easy for him to fall back in. He started growing Marijuana in the planters right in the town square and had one of the largest marijuana operations going until a little girl identified the plants and he was caught. Fortunately for Joseph and Mary, the city let him go because they were too embarrassed that they let this whole operation go on in their own town square.

After getting kicked out of Los Angeles, Joseph and Mary bought Lee Chong's grocery and got in business of illegal immigration. He would help the illegal immigrants get into the states, then provide them a job working the fields, and then sell the produce in his grocery. Things were going well until one day, some of his workers with musical talent got together and formed a band and left their job working the fields to tour. From then on, Joseph and Mary would screen all his immigrants for musical talent so he could manage their band.

Chapter 2, The Troubled Life of Joseph and Mary Analysis

In Chapter 2, Joseph and Mary is introduced and the reader can tell what kind of character he is and what he is capable of. The author points out that Joseph and Mary doesn't try to get himself in trouble but it is almost second nature for him to gravitate towards illegal practices.



Chapter 3, Hoptedoodle (1)

Chapter 3, Hoptedoodle (1) Summary

This is a turning point where everything seems to change in Monterey. For the first time, Doc is starting to lose interest in his life, he no longer turns a rock and gets excited to find a whole colony of species underneath. Doc realizes that he is discontent and that some thing is wrong, he goes to a series of doctors who all agree that nothing is actually wrong with him. Doc starts to listen to the voices in his mind that describes as the three voices of his "feeling mind". The "top voice" tells him what he wants to see and feel, the "lower voice" voices the questions of his subconscious, the "third voice" gives him the reality that he doesn't want to hear "Lonesome, lonesome! You're trying to buy yourself in". He takes a trip to La Jolla and takes a female friend with him hoping that this will help him get back to what he was like. Unfortunately, his female friend gets fed up with the fact that Doc is paying more attention to his octopi than her and what Doc was hoping to be a fun trip ended up being the opposite when she becomes annoyed with him. While he is on the trip he becomes more fascinated with how emotional octopi can be, telling his friend that "Sometimes they get so mad and die of something that parallels apoplexy" and that he wants to write a paper about this.

Doc cleans his laboratory and puts his new specimens in their new home. Things are starting to look like normal in his laboratory but everyone in Cannery Row is worried about him. Mack comes to see Doc to borrow some money, but after finding Doc so distracted he tells him how worried he is and that he thinks Doc should find himself a wife to help him get back to normal.

Chapter 3, Hoptedoodle (1) Analysis

In Chapter 3, the author begins by foreshadowing that things are about to change in Monterey, he gives examples of change happening in the community to illustrate that there was a definite point in time that it happened. Doc is starting to feel that things are not the same and goes to La Jolla with a female friend to collect some specimens. While on this trip he becomes fascinated with the behavior of octopi when they are angered. Doc compares the behavior of the octopi to that of humans which makes the reader notice that the octopi may be a metaphor later in the book. During the trip to La Jolla, Doc is oblivious to how the lady friend he is with is feeling and focuses more on his specimens than her.



Chapter 4, There Would Be No Game

Chapter 4, There Would Be No Game Summary

Joseph and Mary is intrigued by Doc's honesty and really likes him. While visiting Doc, Joseph and Mary spots a chessboard and asks Doc to show him how to play. Doc shows Joseph and Mary how to play and the rules of the game when suddenly, he has to take call. When Doc comes back to the game, he noticed that Joseph and Mary has moved some of the pawns. Doc pointed out that he noticed that Joseph and Mary had moved things around and that this is the only game in which you cannot cheat. This statement shocked Joseph and Mary, he could not understand how you could not cheat at something. It was such a novel idea that Joseph and Mary couldn't stop thinking about it.

Chapter 4, There Would Be No Game Analysis

In Chapter 4, Joseph and Mary's character comes to life when Doc explains to him that there isn't a way to cheat in the game of chess. The author uses this game of chess to contrast Doc and Joseph and Mary's personalities. The game of Chess is a metaphor for love, Doc explains that there is no way to cheat in chess, there are rules and they need to be followed, and in order to play the game both players need to play.



Chapter 5, Enter Suzy

Chapter 5, Enter Suzy Summary

This chapter starts off by giving some background to the town cop, Joe Blaikey. Joe Blaikey is a good police officer because he knows everyone, knows everything that goes on in his town, and has the ability to "size up a stranger almost instantly." One day, a girl named Suzy comes to Monterey off the bus. All she has is an old suitcase and a little purse with nothing of use inside of it. She goes to the Golden Poppy diner to get a cup of coffee and catches the attention of Joe Blaikey. Joe sits next to Suzy and tries to get her story, however, she resists giving him much information about herself. Joe then warns her to stay out of trouble and even offers to lend her money. Suzy refuses and goes into town somehow ending up at the Bear Flag. She talks to Fauna and like she did with Joe, is very vague about what her story is, and though Fauna doesn't think that she is fit for a job at the Bear Flag she sees something in her and hires her. Fauna gives Suzy some money and tells her to go to J.C. Penny to buy a nice dress. Suzy does just that, and finds a nice red dress that she refers to as "tomatoey".

Chapter 5, Enter Suzy Analysis

In Chapter 5, Suzy is introduced. The author emphasizes that the only thing Suzy is coming to this town with is guts. Suzy doesn't know anyone or have anything when she gets off the bus but she is determined to find a job and she does just that. When the employee corrects Suzy about the dress color and Suzy insists on calling it "tomatoey" her stubborn character comes through.



Chapter 6, The Creative Cross

Chapter 6, The Creative Cross Summary

Doc is in the lab trying to observe his octopi so that he can get started on his paper when out of his window he notices Suzy walking down the street. He can't see her face but wonders what she looks like because he can only see her from behind, but from what he can see, she is a confident, happy, but not vain person. Doc tries to get back to work but he can't get his mind to focus. Doc's middle voice is accusing him of not having anything to say and that he uses science to hide this. Doc finally gives in to his distractions and goes across to Lee Chong's grocery to buy some beer.

Chapter 6, The Creative Cross Analysis

In Chapter 6, Doc tries to get started on his paper and keeps getting distracted, this is the first time the reader can see how Doc lets little things get in the way of his writing. At the end of this chapter the three voices in his head start talking and the lowest is yelling "lonesome!". Though it is too early in the novel to know who the voices in Doc's head are or why they are saying these things, the reader can clearly see that there is definitely more to Doc than even he can see.



Chapter 7, Tinder Is as Tinder Does

Chapter 7, Tinder Is as Tinder Does Summary

Joseph and Mary likes Fauna but doesn't feel that women should be business owners. He has believes that men should have the power and that women need to be dependent on men. Joseph and Mary hopes that one day he can move in on Fauna's Bear Flag and take control of it so that he can somehow profit from her business.

Fauna is at the grocery when Joseph and Mary points out that he has noticed Suzy and that she doesn't seem like a good "hustler". Fauna admits that she knows this but that in a way she is doing Suzy a service and taking one for the team. Fauna then tells Joseph and Mary, which they call "the Patron", a story about when she was doing missionary work in South America. Fauna met a group of people that she really liked and these people were "head-hunters" they were in the business of shrinking heads and selling them. However, there was a guy that was selling shrunken monkey heads trying to pass them off as human heads. When Fauna found out that this person was selling shrunken monkey heads, she bought them all. Her reasoning was that if she let the shrunken monkey heads get out on the market, people would find out that they got tricked and would stop trusting anyone selling shrunken heads. This would affect her friends who were good people and were trying to make an honest living selling real shrunken heads, so even though she played the sucker by paying too much money for shrunken monkey heads, she was willing to do it to help her friends. When asked what happened to the guy selling the monkey heads, she implies that they shrunk his head.

Suzy goes to the grocery store to pick up some things for Fauna's astrology when she is introduced to Doc. Doc quickly leaves and Joseph and Mary strikes up a conversation with Suzy while he is sizing her up. He determines that Suzy is definitely not a good "hustler" but is still nice to her and they talk about Doc, she asks if he is "hoity toady" and Joseph and Mary quickly corrects her and tries to explain Doc's personality and profession to her. She makes an observation about Doc's beard and that she knew a wrestler who wore a beard because she thought it made him look tough. Joseph and Mary clarifies that this is not the case with Doc and that he isn't trying to look tough. Suzy leaves and goes back to the Bear Flag and as she is walking, Doc is watching her through his window.

Chapter 7, Tinder Is as Tinder Does Analysis

In Chapter 7, Joseph and Mary's chauvinist ways come to surface when his thoughts on Fauna and her business are revealed. During this era it was unusual for women to be successful business women but it was not unheard of. Joseph and Mary's is so against Fauna owning the Bear Flag but his intentions to take it over illustrate his greed for money. When Suzy and Doc meet at the grocery, the way they greet each other

indicates that Doc made an impression on her and that is probably why she asks about him after he leaves.



Chapter 8, The Great Roquet War

Chapter 8, The Great Roquet War Summary

There's a town right next to Monterey called Pacific Grove. Although this town is right next to Monterey, it is completely different with conservative laws that prohibit things such as, hijinks, alcohol, and boating on Sundays. It started as a resort and for some reason many old people moved to the town. One day, a man named Mr. Deems built two Roquet courts for the people of this town. The people of Pacific Grove loved Roquet, which was similar to croquet, only more complicated. They got so into this new sport that it created a division between the two teams, the Blues and the Greens. This rivalry went as far as people not being allowed into stores because of what team they supported, and the church being separated in two. Finally, after a man was clubbed to death by his rivals Deems bulldozed the Roquet courts during the night to end the horrible things that were happening between the rivals. When the people of Pacific Grove found out what happened to the courts they were so furious that Mr. Deems left town. Every year since that day, the people of Pacific Grove burn a figure of Mr. Deems on July 30th.

Chapter 8, The Great Roquet War Analysis

In Chapter 8, the author tries to draw a parallel to the town of Monterey by introducing the town of Pacific Grove. Unlike Cannery Row, this town is very conservative; however it had its defining event that completely changed the town. The author uses this story as a metaphor for changes in Cannery Row that may change the whole town.



Chapter 9, Whom the Gods Love They Drive Nuts

Chapter 9, Whom the Gods Love They Drive Nuts Summary

This chapter starts by describing how much the Cannery Row depends on Doc. Because everyone loves him, everyone is concerned with him and worried about him. As Doc continues to keep writing his paper her keeps hearing his top voice screaming "Write!" his middle voice screaming "Search" and his lowest voice saying "Lonesome! Lonesome!". Doc's octopi die one by one and he can't use the excuse that he doesn't have the right microscope anymore. All of Doc's friends coincidentally, meet at the flophouse and discuss Doc's situation. They all agree that something needs to happen, but no one knows where to begin. Hazel suggests that Fauna use her astrology for guidance on what they can do. Hazel then remembers that Fauna had been reading his horoscope and asks what the result was. Fauna reveals that he is going to be the President of the United States. Hazel is horrified by Fauna's news as the last thing he wants to be is President. Mack suggests that Fauna read Doc's horoscope, only that she tweak it to make it tell him to forget writing his paper because he things that is what is making Doc miserable. Mack explains that he thinks that Doc doesn't really want to write his paper but is instead using it to cover up something else that is bothering him but that he doesn't want to face.

Chapter 9, Whom the Gods Love They Drive Nuts Analysis

In Chapter 9, all of Doc's friends are gathered in a meeting about Doc. Mack suggests that maybe Doc is covering up one thing with another which suggests to the reader that the problem with Doc is not necessarily the paper.



Chapter 10, There 's a Hole in Reality through which We Can Look if We Wish

Chapter 10, There 's a Hole in Reality through which We Can Look if We Wish Summary

Joseph and Mary visits Doc to talk to Doc about being able to cheat in chess. Doc has to leave though because of the tide and he has to collect some specimens. As he is on the beach his voices start up again. His top voice is talking about this theory with the octopi, his middle voice is suggesting that he doesn't really even believe in his own theory, and his lower voice is screaming "Lonesome!". As Doc is digging in the sand, a strange man who calls himself a seer, comes up behind him and invites him to dinner. Doc agrees against his better judgment and follows the man to a little valley in the pines away from the beach. The seer explains that this is his home and that for the most part, he lives off the tide pool. When doc asks him what he does for sweets, the seer admits that he steals candy bars and that he "can't seem to help it". Doc responds to this with "The flesh is weak" but the seer explains that "Appetites are good things. The more appetites a man has, the richer he is." After drinking something that the seer describes as being a mild psychotic, the seer and doc then have a deep conversation in which the seer suggests that Doc needs help and that "there are some things a man can't do alone" and that they shouldn't try to without love.

Chapter 10, There 's a Hole in Reality through which We Can Look if We Wish Analysis

In Chapter10, Doc meets the Seer as he is deep in thought at the tide pool searching for specimens. The Seer is a symbol for what is not part of Doc's reality, he is open and accepting of what he sees even if it is not normal. As Doc and the Seer discuss the tide pool it becomes apparent that the tide pool is a metaphor for Cannery Row and all the characters in it. Doc and all the characters in Cannery Row coexist and are part of the same story. When the Seer points out that he steals candy bars to satisfy his sugar craving Doc states that "the flesh is weak" to which the Seer responds "Appetites are good things. The more appetites a man has, the richer he is...". This symbolizes Doc's view on weakness and the Seer tells him that it is okay to have weakness, it is what gives you wealth in life.



Chapter 11, Hazel's Brooding

Chapter 11, Hazel's Brooding Summary

Hazel is still upset about the horoscope Fauna read to him. He feels like his world has been turned upside-down and even worse is that he can't turn to Doc because he is not being himself. Hazel starts thinking about what needs to be done to help Doc and who it is that has caused this change in him. As he is thinking under the cypress tree he used to live under before the flophouse, it comes to him that Mack is the reason for Doc is going through this. Hazel goes to the Palace Flophouse and tries to get Mack to come outside so that he can beat him up. Mack refuses and talks some sense into Hazel until finally he calms down and they all drink the night away discussing their theories on what Doc needs. Mack is convinced that what Doc needs is a wife, not to Marry though because "if he's left alone a guy practically always marries the wrong kind of dame."

Chapter 11, Hazel's Brooding Analysis

In Chapter 11, the reader can see how much of a loyal friend Hazel is to Doc. Hazel has a simple mind but great intentions and is willing to do anything to help fix Doc. After Mack talks Hazel out of fighting, they all drink and Hazel gets very drunk. Alcohol is the way the people of Cannery Row celebrate, mourn, and self medicate.

Chapter 12, Flower in a Crannied Wall

Chapter 12, Flower in a Crannied Wall Summary

The character of Joe Elegant is introduced in this chapter. He is the bear Flag cook who also helps the girls when they need it. One morning Suzy finds herself alone with Joe and tries to make conversation with him. As much as Suzy tries to be nice to him, he responds coldly and Suzy loses her temper and grabs him by the collar but catches herself before she goes any farther. Suzy quickly apologizes for her actions and Joe apologizes explaining that he doesn't really belong there. He tells her that he is writing a novel offering to let Suzy come by sometime and read it to try and be nice.

Chapter 12, Flower in a Crannied Wall Analysis

In Chapter 12, Joe Elegant makes it clear that he does not fit in. Suzy's anger problems manifest when she grabs Joe Elegant by the collar which gives the reader a glimpse of her past.

Chapter 13, Parallels Must be Related

Chapter 13, Parallels Must be Related Summary

That night Doc can't sleep and Wide Ida notices that his light is on so she takes some new liquor she purchased for cheap over to him to analyze for safety. Wide Ida then asks him about his "trouble" that everyone is talking about to see if there is anything she can do to help. Doc realizes that his friends are pitying him and that "pity and contempt are brothers." Doc tells himself "I will get the spring tides at La Jolla" as his lowest voice tells him that "Somewhere there's warmth". Doc then writes that "Parallels must be related."

Chapter 13, Parallels Must be Related Analysis

In Chapter 13, when Wide Ida goes to visit Doc and he becomes defensive about his paper, it is like he is trying to convince himself that he is actually going to write it.



Chapter 14, Lousy Wednesday

Chapter 14, Lousy Wednesday Summary

While Mack is at Wide Ida's waiting for Eddie to sneak him free drinks, he overhears Wide Ida complaining about having to pay taxes. Mack for some reason starts thinking about taxes once home at the flophouse and that if Lee Chong, who was the owner of the Flophouse and rented it to Mack and his fiends-without actually collecting the money, then sold the grocery to Joseph and Mary, the flophouse must have gone with it. Knowing that Joseph and Mary was the type that would want his moneys worth of anything he paid for, Mack knew that him and his friends were at risk of losing their home. He called a meeting with the boys and they try to come up with a plan so that Joseph and Mary wouldn't get his tax bill so that he wouldn't know that he owned the Palace Flophouse. While brainstorming, Eddie wishes that Doc owned the flophouse and idea is formed in Mack's mind. He start's sizing Joseph and Mary up to see if his plan actually might work. He points out that as a "con man" Joseph and Mary is needs the people of his community to like him and can't make enemies.

Chapter 14, Lousy Wednesday Analysis

In Chapter 14, the author uses foreshadowing to suggest that something bad is going to happen. Several examples are given in the first paragraph that support that it was a bad day for everyone. Mack discovers the taxes and that the flophouse may not be theirs. Since the reader knows Joseph and Mary's character, it is an obvious problem if Joseph and Mary is the owner.



Chapter 15, The Playing Fields of Harrow

Chapter 15, The Playing Fields of Harrow Summary

In this chapter the author describes how versatile Fauna is as a person. Fauna has created a "Ready Room" at the Bear Flag where girls can relax, chat, and have some fun. Agnes, Mabel, and Becky start to talk about the people that used to live in the broiler across from the Bear Flag, the Malloy's. Fauna comes into the room to find that Suzy is late and that the girls have been gambling. Fauna stresses to her girls how important it is to for them to be ladies and refrain from using curse words, have good posture, and to have good table manners so that they can one day be a star on her wall. Fauna takes pride in the fact that each one of the girls that has a star on her wall has married well. Joe Elegant gives Fauna a note and when Fauna reads it she tells the girls that the note is from Mack requesting their company that night, then she suddenly remembers that she also has a cake that she wants taken to Doc. Fauna asks Suzy to take the cake to dock along with some beers, then tells everyone how badly she wishes that she could put up a star for Suzy one day.

Chapter 15, The Playing Fields of Harrow Analysis

In Chapter 15, the reader can see the maternal side of Fauna by the way she tries to take care of her girls and help turn them into ladies. Suzy is resistant to learning how to become a lady and doesn't seem to care about the stars on Fauna's wall.



Chapter 16, The Little Flowers of Saint Mack

Chapter 16, The Little Flowers of Saint Mack Summary

Doc is in his laboratory working with his specimens and for a short moment he starts to feel like he used to, even his "voices" have calmed down. Mack comes to visit him and asks Doc if he is going to keep working with the octopi since they were making him sick. Doc explains that the octopi were not making him sick; it was just that he was thinking too much. Mack asks Doc what he honestly thinks about Joseph and Mary, and is trying to get advice for his scheme without actually telling Doc what he is talking about or why he is asking. Mack wants to get some insight as to what position Joseph and Mary has in their community and what kind of pressure he is under to keep from making enemies. Mack asks Doc about the lady that he was seeing, Doc explains that she has been sick or something and Mack tells him his theory that the more money a husband makes, the sicker the wife will get and that poor women don't ever get sick. Mack is happy to finally see Doc doing better and tells Doc he is glad he go over "them goddam sooplapods", Doc suddenly gets mad and tells Mack not to think that he is giving up on writing that paper. Mack goes back to the flophouse and tells his friends that they need to make sure that Doc doesn't write that paper.

Chapter 16, The Little Flowers of Saint Mack Analysis

In Chapter 16, it seems that Doc is doing better until Mack brings up the paper and Doc immediately becomes defensive. At this point, by Doc's defensive behavior when questioned about his paper, the reader is able to see that the paper is a symbol for his happiness. Doc wants to be happy so badly but is afraid.



Chapter 17, Suzy Binds the Cheese

Chapter 17, Suzy Binds the Cheese Summary

Suzy goes to Western Biological to drop off the cake as she was asked by Fauna. When she gets there they have a good laugh when they realize there isn't really anywhere to put the cake down. Suzy starts looking at the snakes and asks Doc why he has them, he explains that he sells the venom but Suzy tells him she hates snakes and that they are dirty. When Doc asks Suzy why she thinks the snakes are dirty she simply tells him that it's only because he said that Fauna was trying to get something out of him when he saw she had sent over a cake and that Fauna is her best friend so she doesn't like anyone talking about her. They make peace and continue talking about what Doc does for a living, Suzy tells him that Doc's job is "funny" and Doc responds that "There are funnier businesses" implying her line of work and saying that it seems like a "sad substitute for love-a kind of lonesome substitute". Suzy loses her temper and points out that his lab is dirty, he doesn't take care of himself and he keeps himself busy with "bugs", and asks what it is he thinks he is substituting because he doesn't have a wife or even a girlfriend. Doc gets upset and asks her "Who'd want to go to bed with anybody that's got three bucks?". Suzy responds by telling Doc that everyone is talking about him and his paper, they are all mocking him because they know in reality that he is never going to write that paper. Right as she says this she realizes how much it hurt Doc and tries to take it back. He knows what she says is true and doesn't even get mad even when she tells him to at least yell at her.

Chapter 17, Suzy Binds the Cheese Analysis

In Chapter 17, Suzy and Doc get in an argument because both of them are so defensive and Suzy ends up hurting Doc by telling him that he isn't really going to write the paper and that no one really thinks he is going to. This statement cuts deep for Doc because it makes him feel like a failure especially coming from Suzy.



Chapter 18, A Pause in the Day's Occupation

Chapter 18, A Pause in the Day's Occupation Summary

Chapter 18 (A Pause in the Day's Occupation)

Back at the Bear Flag, they just finished a party for the "Rattlesnakes Club" and they are having a meeting with Fauna. Fauna asks Suzy how things went with Doc and she tells Fauna that they got in an argument over his bugs. Fauna lets Suzy know that he makes good money doing what he does and that she has her eye on him hoping that one day one of her girls will marry him. Fauna decides to read Suzy's stars to see if she will be a good match for Doc. After charting Suzy's birth date, Fauna finds out that Suzy is a Pisces which she explains is a Fish, she further explains that the perfect match for Suzy is a Cancer which is a crab, also pointing out that Doc works with crabs. Fauna asks Suzy what she thought about Doc and she admits that even though they got in an argument she did like him. Suzy tells Fauna that Doc doesn't want to get married, especially not to someone like her but Fauna assures her that marriage doesn't mean anything, because "a man doesn't fall for a dame. He falls for new roses..." and that she thinks Doc and Suzy are a good fit. Finally, Suzy opens up and admits that there was a man in the past, she was only sixteen years old when it happened and he was the only person that had ever talked to her like she was a girl.

After Fauna goes to bed, Suzy runs over to the lab to tell Doc that he really needs to write his paper because he will be letting people down if he doesn't offering to help with whatever she can. When Doc questions what she could do to help Suzy gets upset and yells at him and storms out. Mack comes in right after she leaves advising Doc that he thinks marrying a hustler would be a great idea and that Suzy likes him.

Chapter 18, A Pause in the Day's Occupation Analysis

In Chapter 18, Fauna has realized how resistant Suzy is to becoming a lady and taking her advice so she reads Suzy's horoscope to determine if they are a match. Even though Suzy says that she doesn't want to be married she has a longing for companionship but it doesn't seem that she feels adequate or even deserving of happiness. Suzy opens up to Fauna and admits that there was a man in her past and that he talked to her like a girl. This admission to Fauna signifies that Suzy has a longing to have someone treat her well and make her feel worthy of love.

he takes the bath at the Bear Flag. Emerging from her bath refreshed and centered, Suzy is ready for whatever comes next.



Chapter 19, Sweet Thursday (1)

Chapter 19, Sweet Thursday (1) Summary

This Chapter begins with examples of how this day was better than any day, giving examples of how unusually good things were happening all over Cannery Row. Today is the day that Mack and his friends carry out the first step in their scheme. Mack goes over to Lee Chong's grocery to talk to Joseph and Mary. Joseph and Mary is suspicious of what Mack wants to talk about but Mack is able to keep his composure despite how nervous he is because he is trying to find out if he knows that he owns the Palace Flophouse. Mack tells Joseph and Mary that he is worried about Doc, and in an effort to make Doc feel better, him and his friends are going to raffle the Palace Flophouse and rig the raffle so that Doc wins. Not only is the flophouse going to go to Doc, but the proceeds of the raffle ticket sales are going to go towards the purchase of a new microscope for Doc. Joseph and Mary likes the idea, even offering to help with the ticket sales and tells Mack that he doesn't think the flophouse is even worth four-hundred dollars, which tells Mack that he doesn't know he actually owns it. Mack leaves the grocery ecstatic that his scheme to get the flophouse under Doc's ownership is going to work.

Chapter 19, Sweet Thursday (1) Analysis

In Chapter 19, the author foreshadows a positive change in Cannery Row. Mack carries through the first part of his plan to get the flophouse under Doc's ownership. In Mack's mind if this plan works, everyone in Cannery Row is going to benefit especially Doc and himself. This raffle symbolizes the community of Cannery Row and the family unit that the characters form when they work together.



Chapter 20, Sweet Thursday (2)

Chapter 20, Sweet Thursday (2) Summary

First thing Thursday morning, Fauna goes over to Doc's Laboratory with the intention to talk to him about Suzy. She brings him some beers along with a shrunken head as a gift. Doc invites Fauna to join him for breakfast, he is making sausages dusted with cocoa, a combination he picked up while on his travels. Fauna asks Doc what he thinks about Suzy and he tells her that "She slapped me in the face with a few basic truths". Fauna then asks Doc to do her a favor and take Suzy out on a date, she will even pay for the date. Fauna explains that Suzy doesn't really fit in at the Bear Flag because she isn't a good hustler. Fauna tells Doc how Suzy wants someone to talk to her like a girl, and she is hoping that if someone treats her like a lady that she might actually become a lady and leave the Bear Flag which would take her off Fauna's hands. Doc is hesitant to lead Suzy on but Fauna points out that he does this all the time with the girls he dates to get them in bed, the only difference is that he doesn't realize he didn't mean the things he told them until the next day.

When Fauna gets back to the Bear Flag Joe Elegant reads her his latest Chapter and explains the symbolism and different levels of reality he uses in his writing. Fauna doesn't really understand the point of it and tells Joe "If a man says words, he believes them, even if he thinks he's lying".

Chapter 20, Sweet Thursday (2) Analysis

In Chapter 20, the author gives another version of the same day from Fauna's perspective. It was a wonderful day because she is able to achieve what is important to her, and that is to get Doc to go on a date with Suzy. Doc acts like he is not interested in Suzy but the mere fact that he doesn't want to lie to Suzy shows that he does actually like her. When Fauna gets back to the Bear Flag and Joe Elegant is telling her about his book, the author is using Joe to give the reader some insight on the different levels of the storyline in this novel. there is the story of Doc finding happiness, Fauna finding a match for Suzy, Mack and the boys outsmarting Joseph and Mary to save their home, and Hazel preparing to be President.



Chapter 21, Sweet Thursday Was One Hell of a Day

Chapter 21, Sweet Thursday Was One Hell of a Day Summary

The boys at the flophouse are doing all they can to get the raffle tickets sold. Most people are willing to buy tickets when they know they are for Doc but for those that don't know Doc, they are using other methods. Joe Blaikey is getting rid of parking tickets if the person buys a raffle ticket, Whitey No. 2 started using intimidation to get people to buy tickets since he threw a rock at someone's windshield when they wouldn't buy one, they actually even started spreading the real plan of outsmarting Joseph and Mary, which was enough of a reason for some people to buy tickets.

Mack goes to the laboratory to invite Doc to the party and while he is there also asks him when his birthday is. Doc remembers what happened last time his friends threw a party so he lies and tells Mack that his birthday is on the fourth of July. Fauna told Suzy that Doc would like to take her on a date and that she has to go. Although Suzy refused at first, Fauna made it clear that she doesn't get a choice and now Suzy is nervously getting ready for the date. Fauna advises Suzy "Don't throw the first punch! Wait'll you're hit before you put up your dukes, most of the time they ain't nobody laid a glove on you."

When Mack talks to Fauna he tells her he found out Doc's birthday is July fourth. Fauna is now convinced that Suzy and Doc are going to get married because of what their horoscopes said and decides that the raffle party should also be an engagement party for Suzy and Doc.

Chapter 21, Sweet Thursday Was One Hell of a Day Analysis

In Chapter 21, the Cannery Row's sense of government in their community is seen when the boys use whatever means possible to sell their tickets. Their cause is what is going to save this community in their eyes and the fact that Joe Blaikey is participating in the sale of tickets brings him in as one of the Cannery Row insiders. As Fauna gives Suzy advice for her date, her wisdom and life experience show that she has lived a life of her own and that she is taking what she has learned to hopefully help her girls. When Doc lies to Mack about his birthday, the validity of Fauna's horoscope readings becomes clear to the reader. The fact that Fauna is so certain of Suzy's horoscope reading that she makes the raffle party an engagement party shows how easily people are influenced by what they believe to be true.



Chapter 22, The Arming

Chapter 22, The Arming Summary

Fauna helps Suzy get ready the before her date, she gathers all the girls' clothing and picks out a nice suit and Baum martens for Suzy to wear, she also cleans out Suzy's purse replacing the broken comb. Although Suzy knows that she looks nice, she starts to worry about the date. Fauna talks to Suzy and gives her the following advice: to watch what she says because that's what gets her in trouble, to stop giving her opinion, to listen, to be herself and ask questions if she doesn't know something because that is the best complement to the person, to know how valuable she is, to try not to fight, and to let people do things for her. Suzy thanks Fauna and tells her she loves her Fauna is touched and tells her she can keep the fur. Finally, when Doc arrives and see's Suzy he realizes how dressed down he is and runs back to the laboratory to change into something nicer.

Chapter 22, The Arming Analysis

In Chapter 22 the makeover Fauna gives Suzy is a turning point for Suzy where she is leaving the past behind and becoming a new person. When Fauna cleans out Suzy's purse it is a symbol of Suzy getting rid of some of her baggage in order to make an attempt to move on and change. Suzy tells Fauna she loves her and Fauna gives Suzy her fur. Suzy and Fauna's individual language of love is defined. Suzy expresses her love with her words, and Fauna gives gifts to show her love.



Chapter 23, One Night of Love

Chapter 23, One Night of Love Summary

Suzy and Doc go to Sonny Boy's which is a nice restaurant where to Suzy's relief, none of the people seem to know her. The waiter discreetly lets Doc know that all the arrangements that his "secretary", meaning Fauna, had asked for had been made. Things are going well, Suzy is taking Fauna's advice and refraining from resisting Doc's help and Doc is noticing and liking the contrast from the last time he saw Suzy. As the night goes on and they have some drinks that Doc says may contain rattlesnake venom and opium, they both start to relax and Suzy discovers that she enjoys things better by going in slow motion. For dinner they have a meal of crab and pompano, suddenly Suzy comes to the realization that they have "eaten their horoscopes". She becomes overwhelmed and goes to the bathroom to calm down when she discovers that although fish usually makes her break out, she hasn't broken out this time. While she is in the bathroom Doc starts thinking about the change he sees in Suzy and realizes that he likes her company. Just then, the waiter comes back and confirms with Doc that the meal was made to order per his "secretary". When Suzy comes back she decides that this is fate so she stops resisting and opens herself up to making a true effort on this date. Soc tells Suzy about the pines in the dunes and that they should go have dinner out there sometime. As they continue to talk and laugh Doc confesses and says what his "lower voice" has been saying, that he is lonely. Suzy asks Doc to take her to the valley in the dunes on the way home.

Chapter 23, One Night of Love Analysis

In Chapter 23 Suzy and Doc go to dinner like Fauna arranged. Part of the date included staged symbols that Fauna had placed knowing that they would convince Suzy that she and Doc were destined to be together. The horoscope readings are a form of mental manipulation that Fauna uses on those around her so that they can see what she wants them to see. After several drinks, Doc completely slips and admits that he is lonely. Though it may have been the alcohol that made him drop his inhibitions, his confession is almost a revelation of his true feelings to himself.



Chapter 24, Waiting Friday

Chapter 24, Waiting Friday Summary

Doc goes to the Grocery store and knows that everyone is watching him. Joseph and Mary gives him some good beer and Doc takes it to the lab where he makes himself some breakfast. Fauna comes over to find out how the date went and Doc tells her how great it was complementing her choice in their dinner. Doc tells Fauna to take Suzy's purse that she left in the car back to Suzy but Fauna says Suzy will just come and get it.

Back at the Bear Flag, Suzy excitedly gives Fauna a run down on how the night went and even points out the fact that their meal contained their horoscopes. Suzy asks Fauna what she thinks about the symbolism and Fauna agrees that it's a sign then sends Suzy on an errand to San Francisco to buy herself some clothing and mostly get her out of the way. Suzy tries to give Fauna a hug but Fauna tells her to get off and not to tell her she loves her again. Before leaving, Suzy, knowing that Doc is out collecting specimens, goes to the laboratory and cleans it and makes a stew for him.

Chapter 24, Waiting Friday Analysis

In Chapter 24, Fauna goes to Doc's house to find out about his date with Suzy. Doc tells Fauna he had a good time and the fact that he didn't treat her like all the other girls he dates supports Fauna's theory about new roses. Doc likes that Suzy is different, and he likes that she isn't like any of the girls he has dated.



Chapter 25, Old Jingleballicks

Chapter 25, Old Jingleballicks Summary

When Doc gets back, he is pleasantly surprised to find his place clean and the stew simmering and almost ready. Upon realization that it was Suzy that cleaned the laboratory, he starts to worry that he did something wrong or that she feels indebted to him. For a little while he starts to feel like something is wrong, especially because the "voices are quiet". Doc feels good and after listening to some music he inspired to start writing his paper until Old Jingleballicks shows up at his door. Old Jingleballicks was the scientist that Doc left his laboratory to while he was gone. Old Jingleballicks is incredibly rich and intelligent but also the cheapest person that Doc knows. He donates money to different organizations but is the opposite when it comes to his friends. Old Jingleballicks eats all of Doc's stew, takes his bed, and is driving Doc crazy so he invites Joseph and Mary over to hopefully distract him with the game of chess. The first thing Old Jingleballicks tells Joseph and Mary is that you can cheat in chess by moving the parts, Joseph and Mary is intrigued. When Old Jingleballicks tries to go to the Bear Flag, Doc loses his temper and yells at him telling him to "...stay out of there!".

Chapter 25, Old Jingleballicks Analysis

In Chapter 25, Old Jingleballicks is introduced. He is such an intelligent man that he doesn't make sense to most of the people around him. Old Jingleballicks is a good person but has so much money that he has completely lost value for material things. Old Jingleballicks brings the government of this era into the novel. He acts the way he does because government tax laws influence him to do everything he can to deduct everything and not spend on individuals.



Chapter 26, The Developing Storm

Chapter 26, The Developing Storm Summary

Fauna and Mack are planning the party and decide on it being a costume party with a "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" theme.

Chapter 26, The Developing Storm Analysis

In Chapter 26, Fauna and Mack want their event to be one that will make their community proud. They decide on a costume party with a "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" theme so that this can also be an engagement party and Suzy can be Snow White.



Chapter 27, O Frabjous Day!

Chapter 27, O Frabjous Day! Summary

The word quickly spread around Cannery Row about the raffle being both a costume party and an engagement party. The Snow White theme now made it easy for Fauna to dress Suzy up to look like a bride with the excuse that it's a Snow White costume so she wouldn't protest it.

That Saturday, Fauna gets all the girls to give her all her clothing so that she can pick out a Snow White/Bride costume for Suzy to wear. Mabel, one of the girls at the Bear Flag, lets Fauna borrow her beautiful wedding dress that had been passed down to her. Touched that Mabel is letting Suzy wear the dress, Fauna gives her jet earrings to her.

At the flophouse, the boys teach Johnny how to be palm cars so that as Cupid at the party, he can sneakily draw Doc's name at the raffle, even though almost everyone knows that the raffle is rigged. They are picking out costumes and Hazel is determined to go dressed up as the prince so Mack tells him he has to figure out his costume by himself. Joe Elegant offers to help Hazel with his costume but he doesn't have good intentions.

At the laboratory, Doc and Old Jingleballicks get into an argument and Doc asks him why he is so cheap. Old Jingleballicks explains that he has been conditioned by the government because honest men are penalized with taxes so everyone tries to use tax deductions. If Old Jingleballicks gives to an individual, taxes penalize him making it cost more. However, if he gives to an organization, it is free for him. Doc and Jingleballicks start talking about the paper and Doc admits that he is scared of writing the paper but he doesn't have anything to lose but doesn't really know what he has to gain from writing the paper either. Old Jingleballicks tells him that he believes he has a "lack of fulfillment", is starved and that he "...can't be wholly yourself because you've never given yourself wholly to someone else."

Chapter 27, O Frabjous Day! Analysis

In Chapter 27, Fauna is getting Suzy ready for her engagement party. Fauna is planning on making Suzy the focus of the party and she is going to dress Suzy like a bride. Fauna is determined to give Suzy this opportunity to know what it feels like to feel beautiful. Fauna knows that Doc has feelings for Suzy and is hoping that they will get married so she can put a star up on the wall for Suzy. Doc and Old Jingleballicks get into an argument and Old Jingleballicks takes the opportunity to help Doc logically solve his problem as he believes Doc is metaphorically starving himself because he won't give himself to another person. Old Jingleballicks is like Doc's middle voice, he tells him what reality is in a straight forward manner without being too rude.



Chapter 28, Where Alfred the Sacred River Ran

Chapter 28, Where Alfred the Sacred River Ran Summary

The Palace Flophouse had been named by one of "the boys" Hazel, it was a fourteen by twenty-eight foot room that contained a grandfather clock, a cast iron stove and their beds. Gay's bed was left exactly the same as the day he left as a memorial for him. Cannery row had several pre-parties going so that when the party at the flophouse started it would be in full-swing from the time it starts. Everyone had dressed up, Mack and the boys (everyone but Hazel) were trees, Fauna was a witch, and the girls from the Bear Flag were dressed in nice dresses like bridesmaids, and Hazel was dressed by Joe Elegant in long underwear prince costume with the seat the underwear cut out exposing a bulls-eye that had been painted on his bottom. When Hazel walks in everyone goes silent but didn't laugh because they knew Mack and the boys would hurt them. Doc enters the party at this time and Cupid pretends he had drawn the ticket and Mack announces Doc as the winner. Doc is shocked and tells Mack that Lee Chong had deeded the flophouse to Mack before he left. Mack tells doc to keep it a secret and to charge him and they boys rent.

Fauna and the girls arrive to the party and as Fauna presents Suzy, dressed in her white bride dress, to Doc. When Suzy and Doc make eye contact Suzy sees the shocked look on Doc's face and after he says that "I accept-my-girl" she storms off saying that she could marry anyone but Doc because she loves him.

Chapter 28, Where Alfred the Sacred River Ran Analysis

In Chapter 28, the rigged raffle is drawn and Doc is given the Flophouse. Ironically, it turns out that Mack is actually the owner of the flophouse. Mack leaves the flophouse with Doc because he knows it will be better that way since he doesn't trust himself to keep the place. Although Lee Chong is not there, he is a character that is taking care of his friends from a distance. The fact that he deeded the flophouse to Doc then paid ahead for ten years of taxes shows how much he cared about Mack and his friends. As Suzy enters the party and Doc and her make eye contact they are able to read each others minds. Suzy is overwhelmed by her love for Doc being revealed to him that she automatically goes into the only defenses mechanism she knows, getting angry and running away. Suzy's vulnerability is something that she isn't ready to experience.



Chapter 29, Oh, Woe, Woe, Woe!

Chapter 29, Oh, Woe, Woe, Woe! Summary

The day after the party everyone in Cannery Row feels awful about what happened between Suzy and Doc the night before. Everyone seems to be grieving, from Fauna to the Boys. Other than the people that were at the party, no one knows what happened because none of the guests would talk about it when asked.

Suzy goes to the Golden Poppy and begs Ella to give her a job, and asks Joe Blaikey to lend her the twenty five dollars that he offered her when he first met her. Suzy took the money and decorated the inside of the abandoned boiler across from the bear flag and made it her home. Every one in the community pretended that they couldn't see what she was doing.

Fauna goes to visit Suzy and talk. She wants Suzy to know that this isn't the way she should be dealing with the problem and that she is just tormenting Doc because he can see her through his window. Suzy tells Fauna that if there is a guy for her it will be one that she feels good enough for. Suzy says that she doesn't want Doc back and that she loves Fauna.

Chapter 29, Oh, Woe, Woe, Woe! Analysis

In Chapter 29, the tone for the whole community is that of Doc's. Suzy is humiliated but knows she needs to keep moving and find her self worth. Suzy is doing everything she can to do things right this time and face her problems head on. She moves into the boiler and the only way to enter is the boiler is to crawl. This action of crawling is symbolic of humbling oneself as if one is kneeling. Suzy has to crawl into her boiler in front of the community that is watching, and one by one, her friends that come to see her have to get on their hands and knees before they can enter her home.



Chapter 30, A President is Born

Chapter 30, A President is Born Summary

Hazel has always been innocent and oblivious to what went on around him. However, since Fauna read his horoscope he was paying attention to what was going on around him. Realizing that he could not escape his destiny, he decided that he would do his best and try to prepare himself to be president. He wanted to understand what happened at the party that had left everyone so sad. Since no one would explain to Hazel what happened, he took it upon himself to sit under his Cyprus tree and think about it until he finally figured it out. Hazel went to see Mack and found him in bed crying, he tried to get Mack to get up so they could help Doc but he wouldn't move. Mack told Hazel he had given up on helping Doc because he is only hurting Doc and feels responsible for what happened at the party. Hazel hits Mack hard with a stave and Mack doesn't even move. Hazel realizes that he is going to have to do this all by himself.

Chapter 30, A President is Born Analysis

In Chapter 30, Hazel decides to face his destiny as President. At this point in the novel, the reader begins to question Fauna's card readings and looks beyond the reading and towards the Fauna's motivation to giving that particular reading. Hazel is a loyal and loved member of the community and has potential but lacks confidence. Fauna's reading forces Hazel to push himself to use his brain and be noble. The false destiny the horoscope reading gives Hazel makes him think that he is the only one with the ability to help Doc.



Chapter 31, The Thorny Path of Greatness

Chapter 31, The Thorny Path of Greatness Summary

After doing a lot of thinking under the Cypress tree, Hazel figures out what he has to do. He is going to talk to Doc and actually listen to what he says because it is the last thing that Doc would expect him to do. As future President, Hazel knows that he has to be honorable and make sacrifices, so he doesn't feel good about his decision but he is willing to do it for Doc.

Chapter 31, The Thorny Path of Greatness Analysis

In Chapter 31 Hazel knows how little everyone expects from him so he uses this to his advantage to get everyone to freely speak to him so he can know what is going on in their minds. Much like the game of chess, Hazel can see all the players and their positions which gives him the ability to make predictions to play the game of fixing Doc.



Chapter 32, Hazel's Quest

Chapter 32, Hazel's Quest Summary

Joe Elegant is back in town and Hazel goes to the Bear Flag to talk to him to get some insight as to what is wrong with Doc. Joe tells him that Doc is being pulled in two different directions and what he really needs is understanding and love. While Hazel is at the Bear House he runs into Fauna and she invites him into her room to talk. Fauna tells Hazel that she thinks Doc is in love with Suzy and because he is thinking about her he isn't thinking about his paper so if Suzy were to go to La Jolla with Doc, he would write the paper. The only problem is that Suzy won't go to La Jolla with Doc and he wouldn't take her with him.

Hazel goes to the grocery and talks to Joseph and Mary. Joseph and Mary admits that he is thinking about making a move on Suzy because there must be more to her than he originally thought. Hazel tells Joseph and Mary he needs to stay away from Suzy because she is Doc's.

At the Golden Poppy Suzy fits right in and is doing such an excellent job that Ella is taking time off work and letting Suzy run the place while she is gone. Hazel comes into the diner for coffee then asks Suzy to go on a walk with him. As they walk he asks her what she thinks is wrong with Doc as she tells him she doesn't know and to mind his own business. Hazel explains that Doc is in trouble and he wants to help him, Suzy says that if he were really sick or had a broken leg she would go and help him, but other than that there isn't much she can really do.

All this thinking and talking to people is making Hazel's brain "zizzing" but he continues to Doc's laboratory to talk to him. Doc is planning on going to La Jolla but he still can't figure out what is wrong with. Doc felt better when he was with Suzy and he knows it but is hesitant to give it another try. After their talk Hazel admits to listening and lets Doc know that what Joseph and Mary's intentions are with Suzy. Hazel goes back to the flophouse where Mack is mad at him for hitting him so Hazel quickly tells him where he was and what Suzy told him then goes to bed exhausted.

Chapter 32, Hazel's Quest Analysis

In Chapter 32 Joe Elegant gives Hazel his opinion on what is wrong with Doc saying that he is being pulled in two directions and what he is really searching for is love. Joe

Elegant's perception of what is going on is always poetic and his opinions are accurate because he is John Steinbeck. Additionally, though Joe Elegant is one of the characters in the novel, he is also an outsider who serves as a guide to the reader while trying to analyze everything that is going on. Joe Elegant states that Suzy's retreating to the boiler symbolises her going back into the womb as she is looking for comfort and safety.



Hazel is going person to person finding each piece to this puzzle. Fauna is able to tell him what Suzy will and won't do, Joseph and Mary tells Hazel what he will try to do if Doc doesn't come back into the picture, Suzy tells him what it would take for her to see Doc again, and Doc tells him what he is feeling and would like to do. Hazel has now gathered all the information he needs, he is able to get into the mind of the player and has learned the moves of each character to be able to anticipate their next move. Hazel is proving that he is not the oblivious confused person he originally believed himself to be, he is capable of being intelligent and even manipulative.



Chapter 33, The Distant Drum

Chapter 33, The Distant Drum Summary

After Hazel leaves, Doc sits and thinks about Suzy while listening to his middle voice which wants him to analyze the situation telling him he was fooling himself. Doc tells himself that he will lose his freedom if he is with her, that she has a temper, and that she is illiterate. Suddenly Doc's thoughts are interrupted when he hears the boiler door slam and sees Joseph and Mary outside the boiler. Doc runs down and beats Joseph and Mary telling him to stay away from Suzy. After Joseph and Mary agrees, Doc and him go to the grocery and discuss what happened, Joseph and Mary tells Doc how Suzy rejected him. Joseph and Mary offers to help Doc get Suzy back and tells him where to get her some flowers.

Chapter 33, The Distant Drum Analysis

In Chapter 33, Doc is arguing with his middle voice about his feelings for Suzy. As he is trying to analyze how he truly feels about Suzy, he see's Joseph and Mary outside of the boiler and he reacts by beating Joseph and Mary almost choking him to death. His actions to protect Suzy prove how much he cares about her and wants to be with her. When he sits down with Joseph and Mary he knows he wants to make an attempt to be with Suzy.



Chapter 34, The Deep-Dish Set-Down

Chapter 34, The Deep-Dish Set-Down Summary

Everyone around the boiler was watching as Suzy found the flowers Doc had left at her doorstep that morning. Brought them in then came out an hour later with her suitcase to take a "deep-dish set-down" bath at the Bear Flag. When Fauna realizes that Suzy isn't going to work, she sends a note over to Doc to let him know.

Chapter 34, The Deep-Dish Set-Down Analysis

In Chapter 34 Suzy is faced with the decision of giving Doc another chance. Through everything that has happened, Suzy has been forced to keep going and not focus on herself and what she really wants to do. When Suzy receives the flowers from Doc it is her breaking point. Suzy can no longer keep going through the motions, it is time that her focus turns inward. That is exactly what she does when she takes the bath at the Bear Flag. Emerging from her bath refreshed and centered, Suzy is ready for whatever comes next.



Chapter 35, Il n'y a pas de mouches sur la grandmère

Chapter 35, Il n'y a pas de mouches sur la grandmère Summary

Doc is in his laboratory terrified of going over to see Suzy to give her a box of candy and is arguing with himself as to why he should go. After going back and forth for a while he realizes that he can't be whole without her and needs to know that he tried. Doc goes to the boiler announcing his formal call and Suzy accepts the candy and lets him in but as he is crawling in the cuff of his pant leg gets caught and Suzy has to help him. Doc is impressed with the home Suzy has made and Suzy is proud of herself too. She lets him know that she doesn't need anyone's help, she paid Joe Blaikey back in only two weeks and is even going to typing school. Doc asks her what it is she wants in a guy for the next time, she tells him she wants a man who lets her guard down with her, is open, is real, and needs her. Doc tells her that it pretty much describes him but she tells at him and but when she gets upset and brings up that he told her she would "spoil it", he gives up trying. As Doc is leaving Suzy tells him that the Seer got arrested by Joe Blaikey for stealing candy bars.

Hazel stops by the laboratory and Doc asks him to buy a dozen candy bars and give them and the change to the Seer. Doc gets a collect telegram from Old Jingleballicks telling him that he set up an institution for Doc and made him head of the research section at the California Institute of Technology. He will also be paying him six thousand a year and be able to read his paper at the California Academy Sciences.

Chapter 35, Il n'y a pas de mouches sur la grandmère Analysis

As Doc gets caught climbing into the boiler he is forced to accept Suzy's help. Doc having to accept Suzy's help is symbolic of what she is capable of doing in his life. When Suzy is proudly showing what she has accomplished by decorating her home and making it hers she is showing Doc that she is self sufficient. Unlike Doc, she is able to accomplish things when she knows what she wants. In the case of a man, Suzy has figured out exactly what she wants and according to Doc she is describing him.



Chapter 36, Lama Sabachtani?

Chapter 36, Lama Sabachtani? Summary

Hazel talks to the Seer in Jail and asks the Seer for advice on a hypothetical question. The question is if he should hurt someone he loves in order to help them because there is no other way. The Seer advises him that he should go ahead and do what he needs to do but to prepare for the consequences.

Hazel knew what he needed to do as he sat under the Cyprus tree at three in the morning. He grabbed his baseball bat and quickly snuck off then returned after a few minutes.

Chapter 36, Lama Sabachtani? Analysis

The Seer is able to give Hazel advice that lets him know that he is making the right decision with what he is planning to do to Doc. The Seer agreeing with Hazel proves that Hazel is now one of the least confused characters in Cannery Row.



Chapter 37, Little Chapter

Chapter 37, Little Chapter Summary

Doc goes to his friend Dr. Horace's house who confirms that Doc has broken his arm. Dr. Horace tells him that it looks like someone hit it with a bat but doc is convinced that he must have broken his it in his sleep by catching his arm between his bed and the wall.

Chapter 37, Little Chapter Analysis

Doc has no clue that his arm was broken by Hazel.



Chapter 38, Hoopedoodle (2) , or The Pacific Grove Butterfly Festival

Chapter 38, Hoopedoodle (2) , or The Pacific Grove Butterfly Festival Summary

Pacific Grove has had an annual event of Monarch butterflies coming to feed off their pine trees for about a week in the year. After realizing what an attraction this could be the people of Pacific Grove made a festival of this with a Pageant. This year, two days before the pageant, the lead in the pageant, Miss Greaves, lost her voice and to top that off the butterflies didn't come. The people were so mad that they wanted to be mad at someone, so they blamed the Mayor who was seen leaving a hotel that caught fire with a blonde woman. Then they even had a scandal in the first grade which ended up blaming one of the teachers as having a dad who supported the release of Eugene V. Debs by signing a petition.

Chapter 38, Hoopedoodle (2) , or The Pacific Grove Butterfly Festival Analysis

The search for blame is what those in Cannery Row have been doing with Doc and his paper. It is irrational, but Doc's friends needed someone or something to blame for the change of their friend. The absence of the butterflies in the town of Pacific grove is a metaphore for the lack of happiness in Doc. Cannery Row has been waiting for their Doc to come back and they still don't have him back, and because they are so frustrated, they simply blame the paper he is writing.



Chapter 39, Sweet Thursday Revisited

Chapter 39, Sweet Thursday Revisited Summary

It is a beautiful day, Miss Graves has recovered her voice and the butterflies finally came to Pacific Grove.

Everyone knows about Doc's broken arm and at the diner Suzy hasn't been able to function since finding out about it. When Mack finds out he knows it was Hazel who did it he finds Hazel under the Cyprus tree sick because he doesn't want to be President. Mack begs fauna to change the horoscope because he doesn't want Hazel trying to be noble again. Fauna comes and reads Hazel's horoscope to him again and to his relief, tells him it was a mistake. Mack receives a crate from the mail man and as they open it they look down and Mack exclaims that he hopes doc likes his present because it was the biggest one he could find in the catalog.

Suzy races to the laboratory and tells Doc that she will go to La Jolla with him, he asks if she can drive and she says she can. As Doc starts to tell her he doesn't think she'll be able to help he breaks down and admits that he needs her. Doc tells her about Old Jingleballicks offer and that he doesn't know what to do she responds by telling him that it is okay not to know what to do. Suzy says she will be ready to leave in two hours and as she leaves to get ready Doc tells her he loves her and her beams back telling him that she is his girl.

Chapter 39, Sweet Thursday Revisited Analysis

Finally, things are starting to return to normal. Suzy and Doc are finally together and Doc is happy again meaning the Cannery Row has their beloved Doc back. Hazel no longer thinks he is going to be president so even he can be himself. Just like Pacific Grove, everything is back to normal and wonderful in the town of Monterey.



Chapter 40, I'm Sure We Should All Be as Happy as Kings

Chapter 40, I'm Sure We Should All Be as Happy as Kings Summary

Suzy is at the Palace Flophouse with the boys learning how to drive a stick shift car on a chair using bricks as pedals, and a mop handle as the stick. After two hours of practicing, Suzy returns to the laboratory ready to leave and finds Doc ready and all his gear packed in the car. Mack and the boys come by to give Doc his gift explaining it was the biggest one they could find as he realizes it is a telescope. Doc and Suzy get in the car and as Suzy drives away, Fauna wonders out loud if she would be safe putting up Suzy's star.

Chapter 40, I'm Sure We Should All Be as Happy as Kings Analysis

Doc finally realizes that he needed to open his eyes and see what was in front of him the whole time. He was lonely because he wasn't allowing himself to see that he needed Suzy to be whole. The telescope the boys give him prove that he didn't need a microscope to see, he simply needed to open his heart.



Characters

Doc

Doc is the protagonist in this novel which and there are two parts to his character, Doc before and after the war. Doc is a very intelligent man that is needed and loved by everyone in his community. He is the owner of Western Biological Laboratories, where he collects specimens that are used in science. He enjoys helping everyone, from testing cheap alcohol for Wide Ida, to fixing Hazels foot. Doc likes the feeling of being needed, he even gives his friends at the flophouse money when they ask. Doc is an honest man but because his best friend is Mack, the biggest hustler in Cannery Row, he tends to get dragged into his friend's schemes from time to time.

Before the war, Doc had a satisfaction and sense of content with his life and career. He had many female friends he dated and was happily fulfilling his roll in the community. After the war, Doc comes back is no longer happy with his life and lacks a sense of fulfillment. His happiness is replaced by overwhelming loneliness which is voiced by his "inner voices". Although he has never wanted to have a wife, Doc is not afraid of women and has no problem finding female companionship. Since being back from the war, Doc has lost interest in finding companionship in these women and these relationships become meaningless to him.

Towards the end of the novel, Doc is able to come to terms with the thoughts he has been having and recognizes them to be a window into how he is feeling. Realizing that he can no longer live his life of loneliness he lets down his guard and lets himself admit that he has a fear of the unknown. Doc changes the way he approaches life by listening to his inner most desires and fears. He realizes that it is okay to be afraid of failure, but one must at least try to achieve what is desired.

Suzy

Suzy comes into Monterey without any money, without knowing anyone, and without a place to live. Though it is obvious that Suzy is not educated, she quickly finds a job as a prostitute at the Bear Flag where it becomes clear to everyone that she doesn't fit it. Suzy is very private about her past and protects herself with a tough exterior to prevent herself from getting hurt.

As the novel progresses, Suzy slowly and cautiously starts to trust certain people as they prove themselves to her. She gives her friends small glimpses into her past and it becomes apparent that she has been hurt by a man who has made her the tough person she is.

After the incident at the raffle party Suzy decides that she is going to keep her chin up and do what she needs to do to be independent and successful on her own. She convinces Ella to give her a job at the Golden Poppy and proves to Ella that she can do



an excellent job. Suzy knows what she wants and what she is worth and is fed up with trying to impress everyone. She finds herself an honest job that she is good at, she registers for typing school, makes herself a home for inside the boiler, and even pays Joe Blaikey back the money she borrowed from him. She realizes that she needs someone who needs her and loves her for who she is.

Hazel

Hazel is one of the boys that lives in the Palace Flophouse which he named. Hazel fights in the war and takes advantage of the G.I. Bill when he gets out.

Although he is not very bright and spends most of his time being confused, Hazel enrolls in the University to study astrophysics. Unfortunately, the university finds out that he only got into the program because he put a check on his application and kicks him out. Hazel has his horoscope read by Fauna and she tells him that he is going to be President of the United States. Hazel is terrified but after coming to terms with the fact that he cannot do anything to change his destiny he decides to embrace his future as president and prepare himself by listening, becoming aware of what is going on around him, and reading books. Hazel is a loyal friend to Doc and is willing to do anything to help. When Hazel is made to believe he is the future President he takes it upon himself to solve Doc's problem to get him back to normal and proves to be smart after all.

Fauna

Fauna becomes the owner of the Bear Flag after her sister, who was co-owner, dies. Fauna is a strong business woman who was even able to make a profit while running a mission in San Francisco. As owner of the Bear Flag she makes sure her girls aren't just prostitutes, she wants to transform them into ladies and help them marry well. Fauna takes pride in helping her girls succeed in life. She practices astrology and reads peoples horoscopes, she says that sometimes people have an easier time listening to advice a horoscope gives them rather than a person.

Joseph and Mary

Joseph and Mary Riveras (the Patrón) buys Lee Chong's Heavenly Flower grocery from Lee Chong before he leaves town. Joseph and Mary is a well dressed Mexican man from Los Angeles who has always lived a life of crime. As a young boy he was a pool hustler and was even a gang leader. After getting caught running the biggest marijuana ring as a City employee, he was forced out of town and he came to Monterey. Joseph and Mary is in the business of illegal immigrants. He brings them to the United States, then gives them a job in the fields which supplies his grocery with produce. Joseph and Mary believes that every business needs to be run by a man and that women need to remain poor. He is always looking for ways to expand his business and he wants to take over the Bear Flag.



Mack

Mack is the ringleader of the boys that live at the Palace Flophouse. He is the biggest hustler in Cannery Row and is always working on a scheme with the help of his friends, Hazel, Whitey No. 1, Whitey No. 2, and sometimes even Doc when he can rope him into it. Mack is the mastermind of the plan to fix Doc, he is a smart man who is determined to find a way to get what he wants. He uses manipulation and often coercion to get his way but he knows what he is doing isn't honest. In this novel, Mack is the one that puts together the raffle and the one that initially tries to fix Doc.

Old Jingleballicks

Old Jingleballicks was the intelligent scientist that Doc left his laboratory to while he was gone. Old Jingleballicks is very wealthy but because he wants to avoid taxes he is cheap and lives off his friends.

The Palace Flophouse boys

Whitey No. 1, Whitey No. 2, Eddie, Hazel, and Mack. These are all the men that live in the flophouse. They are led by Mack who is a well known hustler.

Lee Chong

He used to be the owner of Lee Chong's Heavenly Flower and the Palace Flophouse. He sold the place when he decided to sail the South Seas. When he left he wanted to make sure that his friends were taken care of so he left the Palace Flophouse to Mack without Mack's knowledge.

Joe Elegant

He is the voice of the writer. When things start to get confusing in the novel he guides the reader to see what he wants them to. Although Joe Elegant is one of the characters he says several times that he is not one of them. He says this because he is John Stienbeck speaking through Joe Elegant.

The Girls at the Bear Flag

Fauna, Becky, Agnes, and Mabel. These prostitutes worked at the Bear Flag under Fauna.



Ella

She is the owner of the Golden Poppy diner. Ella works all the time but finally gets a break after Suzy starts working there.

Joe Blaikey

The town constable that knows everything and everyone in his town. He can size a person up within seconds and is very involved in his community.



Objects/Places

The Bear Flag

The brothel owned by Fauna where Suzy gets a job the same day she arrives at the Cannery Row.

Cannery Row- A community in Monterey that got its name because they used to can fish. They closed down the cannery after all they ran out of fish because they caught them all.

Golden Poppy- The diner owned by Ella where Suzy goes to when first arriving to Monterey. Suzy also ends up getting a job here after she leaves the Bear Flag.

Palace Flophouse

The building in which Mack, Hazel, Whitey No.1, and Whitey No. 2 live. They used to rent the place from Lee Chong before he left town but they never actually paid him.

Western Biological Laboratories

Doc's home and laboratory where he collects specimens and sells them to those in the science field.

The Boiler

A locomotive's front end that the Cannery used for the steam. After the Cannery shut down, the boiler was left in the mud next to the Bear Flag and it was lived in by Mr. and Ms. Malloy until they moved away. Suzy makes the boiler her home after she moves out of the bear flag.

La Jolla

The town in California where Doc goes to find the octopi he needs to observe for his paper.

Lee Chong's Heavenly Flower

The local grocery store owned by Joseph and Mary that used to be owned by Lee Chong.



Pacific Grove

A conservative town right next to Monterey that started as a conservative retreat. This town is used as a parallel to Monterey in the novel.

Tide Pools

These little pools are where Doc goes to collect specimens for his laboratories. The tide pools are filled with many different crustaceans forming a miniature ecosystem.

Cannery Row

A community in Monterey that got its name because they used to can fish. They closed down the cannery after all they ran out of fish because they caught them all.

The Golden Poppy

A community in Monterey that got its name because they used to can fish. They closed down the cannery after all they ran out of fish because they caught them all.



Themes

Change is constant

From the beginning of the novel change is what creates the story. The war brought upon change to the people of Cannery Row and they were forced to make changes to their way of life and business. When Doc comes back all he wants is normalcy but that is the last thing he gets, things have changed too much for him to simply jump back into his old life. The people in Cannery Row have had enough change that they just want things to stop changing and they are focusing all their energy on stopping change.

To contrast Cannery Row's resistance to change is Suzy's willingness to find change. She has left her town with nothing and is looking for a complete change. It doesn't seem that she knows what she wants but from the way she acts it seems that anything is better than where she is coming from. The change that she is looking for is not in herself, she makes it a point to try and be resistant to any suggestions to her changing who she is. The reader first sees this when the associate at JC Penny tries to correct her on the color of the dress she was purchasing. Suzy insists on calling it "tomatoey" but when she gets back to the Bear Flag she corrects one of the girls and tells her the color is "Love Apples". Suzy has no desire to learn manners or to clean up her vocabulary.

At the end of the novel Suzy changes by learning to let her guard down and realizing her self worth. Doc learns to stop fearing change and to be able to give himself to somebody. Together Doc and Suzy are able to balance each other out. Like the tide pools Doc collects his specimens from, the tide seems to have come into Cannery Row and this time everyone has embraced it.

Gender Roles

The first person to discuss gender roles is Mack when he points out that poor women don't get sick and that it is only the rich that allow themselves the luxury to be sick. When he is telling Doc his theory he clearly states that the husband is the one working and earning the money and that the wife is at home getting sick. The second person to discuss the subject is Joseph and Mary who is extremely chauvinistic and feels that men are superior to women. He doesn't give any real reasons as to why he doesn't feel that women should be successful business women, he only says that a successful woman is like a "half-assed man". Fauna is obsessed with trying to turn her prostitutes into ladies so that they can marry well. The irony in Fauna doing what she does in her polishing of young ladies is that she breaks the mold of what a woman should be during in that time period.

These gender roles greatly affect the story because the characters hold each other to an unspoken standard. Joseph and Mary automatically judges Fauna because she is a



woman running a very successful brothel. Fauna judges Doc as marriage material based on his ability to provide with his income and tries to groom her girls to act the way a wife is supposed to act.

The power of the mind

Fauna reads horoscopes of several people in the novel. She reads Hazel's horoscope and tells him that says that he is going to be President of the United States of America. She then reads Suzy's horoscope and tells her that she is compatible with Doc. Fauna knows that her horoscope readings aren't very accurate but she uses them to validate the advice she has and to guide those around her to feel that they should do what she has been telling them to do all along.

Suzy didn't want to give Doc a fair shot until Fauna planted some signs that she knew Suzy would notice and make her think that the reading she received was true. When Suzy noticed the signs she was made to believe that it was her destiny to be with Doc. She immediately changed her behavior and made an effort to make it work with him.

In the case of Hazel, Fauna knew that he was such a good person and had so much wasted potential. She knew that if she made him believe that greatness was in his destiny that he would be forced to try and make himself better. This is exactly what happened when he finally came to terms with his horoscope reading. Hazel was manipulated in to believing that he had potential and in the process became the smart person that Fauna always saw in him.



Style

Point of View

The story is told from the perspective of an all knowing third person. The narrator simply tells the facts of the story without any particular voice. He uses the conversations between characters to tell reader who the characters are and what their personalities are like. When the characters aren't speaking, the narrator goes into the thoughts of the characters so that the reader is allowed to make their own deductions.

The third party neutrality provides reader an objective view, however, in contrast to the third party the narrator does come out every now and then when Joe Elegant starts analyzing things. When Joe Elegant starts to give his perspective as to what is happening it becomes obvious that it is the author is speaking directly to the other characters and the reader. Because there are several different stories going on at the same time and the characters each have their opinions and theories about Doc and Suzy, he is giving his view because he feels it is important and significant to the novel. Joe Elegant/John Steinbeck points out that the reader needs to pay attention to the symbols being used and the different levels of reality. Once the reader can see what author wants them to note, the reader is able to pick up some of the other underlying realities he doesn't mention simply because the reader is now aware of his style.

Setting

The time setting of this novel is post World War II in Monterey, California. The cannery has been closed because of overfishing and the war has affected the whole town so morale is low. The close community of Cannery Row is expecting Doc's return to bring them back to the normalcy that they were accustomed to. The streets that used to be filled with the hustle and bustle associated with the canneries are now silent.

Other than the first trip that Doc takes to gather specimens in La Jolla, most of the story takes place within the small community of Cannery Row. There is one bar, one brothel, one grocery store, the Palace Flophouse and Doc's laboratory where all of this story takes place. Because everyone is so close they depend on each other and are always together at these different buildings.

The time setting dramatically affects the story because there are different expectations and standards the men and women in this town are held to. The first response to Doc's problems is that he needs a wife because of the time setting it is expected that a successful man needs a wife.



Language and Meaning

The author has a way with words that is very poetic. As the narrator the language is very descriptive when the author is trying to support a claim that he makes. This typically happens at the beginning of a chapter when he is trying to make a point. For example, when the author is trying to say that Thursday was a great day, he goes into great detail of the happenings of that day to support his initial claim.

The author only provides the reader with a description of the character through what and how the character speaks. This makes the language used very important and a defining point for the characters. One example of this is how the reader can see that Suzy is uneducated simply by the words she uses and how she uses them. She often uses curse words and words that are typically used by those of a lower socioeconomic status. In contrast to Suzy, Doc uses proper grammar and has an extensive vocabulary suggesting that he is very intelligent. This use of language defines each character in the novel and allowing the author to paint with his words.

Structure

This novel is divided into 40 Chapters. Unlike most novels, the chapters are not divided according to length, they are grouped by subject. The reason the author does this is because of the conversation between Mack and Whitey No. 1 and Whitey No. 2 where he is criticizing how the author wrote Cannery Row. Mack says he would have liked it if he knew what a chapter was going to be about based on the title. The author does that with this book so the titles names describe what happens in each chapter.

In addition to the descriptive titles, the novel uses the chapters to separate the multiple stories that are simultaneously happening. This method of dividing the stories allows the reader to follow each plot without too much confusion. At several times in the novel more than one story comes together. One example of this is at the raffle when Doc, Mack, Suzy, and Fauna all have their story lines come together and in these situations the Chapters are more lengthy. The author also has a separate story that he dedicates several chapters to. These chapters tell the story of a town named Pacific Grove that he uses to draw a parallel to that of Cannery Row. Pacific Grove has nothing to do with Monterey however the point is that change can affect one town as much as it can affect another.



Quotes

Chapter 2, The Troubled Life of Joseph and Mary, pp. 10, "Everybody takes care of you because you're wide open. Anybody is like to throw a sneak-punch at Joseph and Mary because he's in there dancing and Feinting all the time. And he's nice too, in a way."

Chapter 3, Hoopedoodle, pp. 17. "The tum-tum changes, giving place to nw. And God tum-tums himself in many ways"

Chapter 7, Tinder Is as Tinder Does, pp. 44, "People got to be a patsy now and then." "You never feel real good if you never been a sucker."

Chapter 16, The Little Flowers of Saint Mack, pp. 93 Mack- "but you search your hear, Doc, and see if I ain't dishonest in a kind of honest way. I don't really fool nobody-not even myself. And there's another thing- I know when I'm doing it. Joseph and Mary can't tell the difference."

Chapter 17, Sweet Thursday, pp. 178 Old Jingleballicks- "Well, aren't you putting a lot of energy into denying something which, if it is not true, deserved no denial?"

Chapter 27, O Frabjous Day!, pp. 177, "Who's talking about romance? I was speaking of hunger. Maybe you can't be wholly yourself because you've never given yourself wholly to someone else."

Chapter 19, Oh, Woe, Woe, Woe!, pp. 191, It cannot be said that trouble builds character, for just as often it destroys character. But if certain character traits, mixed with certain dreams, are subjected to the fire, sometimes...sometimes..."

Chapter 19, Oh, Woe, Woe, Woe!, pp 198, "Now maybe it won't never happen again, but if it does-if there's a guy-I'm goddamn well going to be good enough for him, inside and outside, public and private; but mostly I'm going to feel good enough."

Chapter 30, A President Is Born, pp. 200, "Of all murky inventions, guilt is at once the most devious, the most comic, the most painful."

Chapter 32, Hazel's Quest, pp. 208, "Distill the myth and you get the symbol."

Chapter 35, Il n'y a pas de mouches sur la grandmère, pp. 232, "I know that if I win her I'll have many horrible times. Over and over, I'll wish I'd never seen her. But I also know that if I fail I'll never be a whole man. I'll live a gray half-life."

Chapter 40, I'm Sure We Should All Be as Happy as Kings, pp. 260, Doc "After all, I guess it doesn't matter whether you look down or up-as long as you look."



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the use of alcohol in the novel. Why do you think the characters in the novel drink so much? Is there a correlation between many of the emotions felt in the novel and the use of alcohol?

Discuss loneliness. None of the characters in the book are in a relationship, why is everyone pushing Suzy to be in one? If a person is not in a relationship does that mean they are lonely?

Discuss chauvanism. Aside from Joseph and Mary, do any other characters show any signs of being chauvinistic? Why does Joseph and Mary feel the way he does towards women? Where could these feelings originate from?

Discuss the use of horoscopes in this novel. Are the characters influenced by Fauna's horoscope readings? Does Fauna actually believe in her own readings?

Discuss Old Jingleballicks view on taxes. Is it dishonest to make deductions in order to avoid taxes? Why does Old Jingleballicks make his telegram collect?

Discuss the tide pool. What are the similarities between the tide pool and Cannery Row? Do close communities positively or negatively affect relationships among community members? Why or why not?

Select two characters in the novel and describe their physical appearance. Why do you believe they look the way they do? Did the author's lack of physical description of his characters add to or take away from the novel? Why or why not?

Fauna makes the statement that "When a man says words he believes them, even if he thinks he's lying". Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? What are some examples of this in real life?