

## John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. He grew up in the agricultural Salinas Valley, about 25 miles from the Monterey Peninsula. Both locations would serve later as the settings for some of his finest writing. In 1919 Steinbeck enrolled at Stanford University, took some courses, then left six years later *sans* degree. He went east to New York City, messed about for a few years, then returned to the West Coast and married his first wife, Carol Henning.

With Henning's active support, popular recognition and financial security came his way in 1935 with *Tortilla Flat*, a collection of stories about Monterey, California's boisterous *paisanos*. Steinbeck quickly followed up with three extraordinary novels: *In Dubious Battle*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. Many critics consider the third story, which describes the Oklahoma Dust Bowl and migrant farm life during the Depression, to be his masterpiece.

In the 1940's Steinbeck continued to write impressive tales, such as *Cannery Row* and *The Pearl*. In 1952 he composed *East of Eden*, which depicts an admirable family spiked through the heart by the unconscionable morals of its matriarch. He spent his final years with his third wife, Elaine Scott, in New York City and Sag Harbor, a small village on the eastern shore of Long Island. There he remained a talented author (not to mention gifted genius). In 1962, he wrote *Travels with Charley*, in which Steinbeck tells how he - accompanied by his black poodle - motored across the breadth of America assessing the worth of our country (and the value of his writing).

Between 1929 and 1966 John Steinbeck authored over thirty memorable books, plays, and film scripts. He died in late 1968, having won the Nobel Prize for Literature six years earlier.

Essay by Bill Lounsbery

*KRL has all of the books referenced and many more.*

### Calling All Readers

What have you been reading in non-fiction?

Please email the Editor and let us know. We will be publishing your recommendations in our Ides of March Issue: Examples so far:

Dark Matter & the Dinosaurs ...

Thing Explainer ...



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## Why We Watch Birds

Gene Bullock of Kitsap Audubon Society will share fabulous photos, stories and fun facts about birds that might explain why one in every five Americans is a birdwatcher



**Silverdale:** Saturday, March 5, 2 p.m.

**Little Boston:** Saturday, March 12, 11:30 a.m.

**Poulsbo:** Friday, March 18, 2 p.m.

**Manchester:** Monday, March 28, 6 p.m.