Jean Fry

Nerinx Hall High School

530 E. Lockwood Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63119

Interdisciplinary U.S. History & Literature

***The Myth of Edenic California***

**“Un-homed” – Loving & Losing a Sense of Place**

Objective: In order to set the stage for *The Grapes of Wrath* and to have students more fully understand the tragedy of being displaced, we will discuss home, unwilling removal, and the feelings that follow.

Objective 1: To analyze Steinbeck’s sense of place, we will read Steinbeck excerpts:

Part II—“The Great Mountains” from *The Red Pony*

Chapter 31—“The Gopher” from *Cannery Row*

Chapter 6 from *Sea of Cortez* (45-47, 49-52)

Journal #1: What is “Home?” What does it mean to you? What would it mean to you if you were never able to return? What would you take with you?

Objective 2: To add local relevance and establish environmental awareness, science guest lecturers discuss the disappearance of elk in Missouri, and the efforts to reintroduce them. Students will then take a field trip to Lone Elk State Park in St. Louis County to study habitat.

Journal #2: Elk observations from the park: Where do the elk seem most at ease? Incorporate the science lectures into your sense of how elk disappeared from our area. How does the disappearance of an entire group/species affect those that remain?

Objective 3: Add depth to the concept of a writer’s sense of place by reading Robinson Jeffers’ poetry, and build awareness of Steinbeck’s connection to Jeffers and Jeffers’ connection to the area:

“To the House”

“Tor House”

“The Bed by the Window”

“Shine, Perishing Republic”

Journal #3: How much does “home” or the idea of home contribute to your personal “American Dream”? Explain why. How might you re-imagine your dream without “home”?