

The Grapes of Wrath

Dialogue Analysis

Gaby 8C

Mulley –

The rest of my fambly set out for the west--there wasn't nothin' to eat--but I couldn't leave. Somepin' wouldn't let me. So now I just wander around. Sleep wherever I am. I used to tell myself I was lookin' out for things, so when they come back ever'thing would be all right. But I knowed that wan't true. There ain't nothin' to look out for. And ain't nobody comin' back. They're gone--and me, I'm just an 'ol graveyard ghost--that's all in the world I am.

From Muley's speech we see how hurt he is. We see how much he loves his land and that he is determined to stay on it no matter what. We see that he's just living in the past, hoping that everything goes back to before. Instead of trying to move on with his life he is stuck in his past waiting for everything to change. The words he uses and the way he uses them show us how much he cared for that land, and how much he was determined to keep it. Now we see that he is starting to see how useless it is for him to stay there, but he isn't really doing anything about it. He used to tell himself that he stayed there so that he could check everything and keep everything under control when everyone came back, but only now does he realize no one's coming. Now he just lays around like a lost soul, like someone that has no where to go.

Casey –

Well--tell the folks inside how it is, Tom. Tell 'em they're starvin' us and stabbin' theirselves in the back. An' as sure as God made little apples it's goin' back to two an' a half jus' as soon as they clear us out.

When Casey tells Tom to tell everyone that they are just ruining them selves we see the reality of the situation. Casey makes Tom and everyone else realize how bad this situation has gotten. Each one is stabbing each other in the back and treating everyone like dirt. He makes us see how inhuman the land owners are being. Casey wants to send a message to all those poor people, and he wants them to rebel. He thinks that everything that is being done to them isn't right and he wants people to realize it. When Casey says this we get a feeling of understanding and amazement at Casey's knowledge and will to change the world. His words are filled with trust and security. He wants to send a message to the world and he uses Tom to get it through.

Ma -

Try to be strong, honey. Someday
it'll be diff'rent--someday you'll
have another one. You're still jus'a
little girl, remember.

Ma says this when Tom has just left and Rosasharon just lost her baby. When she says this we see that she is trying to be strong, and to be the shoulder Rosasharon can depend on but she can't. She just lost her son, and her daughter's baby and she is trying to handle that as best as possible. She feels like everything is falling down again. Everything was so perfect, until all the happiness went away. When she says "try to be strong", I think that she is actually talking about her self and she's the one that is almost falling to pieces. She is one of the most important family members and she is the one that keeps it all together, so she knows that she is going to have to fight the pain and get over it. As much as she would like to just cry and let it go she knows that she has to support the family and help them all out by believing everything is ok. The family is falling apart, but Ma tries to be strong.

Rosasharon-

Maybe Connie went to get some books
to study up with. He's gonna be a
radio expert, ya know. Maybe he
figgered to suprise us.

When Rosasharon says this Connie has just disappeared. We see that Connie has hurt her so much, and that she is scared and lonely. She tries to make an excuse for him, but even she knows that he isn't coming back. She doesn't want to confront the reality and wants to avoid it until it is absolutely necessary. She tries to be strong, but inside she is completely broken. No matter how much she tries she can't hide her feelings. We see how much she loved him and how much she didn't expect this. She was completely surprised and she isn't prepared for this situation.

Casey -

"But not no more.
I lost the spirit.
I got nothing to preach about
no more, that's all.
I ain't so sure of things."

When he says this he sort of looks to the ground, sad. Later in the movie he explains why: With the great Depression everyone came to him, asking for answers: What will happen? Why? And Preacher Casey, not knowing the answers, didn't think he deserved to be a preacher anymore. This piece of dialogue is especially important for understanding Casey, especially the part where he says: "I ain't so sure of things". With the Great Depression, many people lost confidence and weren't sure of things, they were all confused, full of anxiety, searching for things. It shows a lot about Preacher Casey's character: a searching one, who in the end though, finds a reason for living.