

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## American Literature

### “Breakfast” Response and Analysis



#### Part I

1. Read and annotate “the author’s biography”-write a one –sentence summary of each paragraph.
2. Read and annotate the short story “Breakfast” by writing comments or symbols expressing your reaction as you read.

#### Part II

Answer the following questions in **a separate piece of paper** following response to literature guidelines: answer in complete statements, provide evidence of your statements through reasoning and quotes.

1. The *theme* of a piece of literature is a dominant idea—often a universal message about life— that the writer communicates to the reader. What do you think the theme or implied message of “Breakfast” is? What details and descriptions support this theme?
2. How did you react to the characters in this story? Explain.
3. What does the family Steinbeck describes seem to value?
4. How might the setting of the story have an impact on the characters?
5. What does the narrator say about his memory at the end of the story? What might his attachment to this memory suggest about his life? What deeper understanding or awareness of life does he seem to gain?
6. The reader never learns why the narrator is walking on a country road or where he is going. Why do you think Steinbeck chose not to reveal much about the narrator?

### **Part III**

Complete the response to literature chart included in this packet

### **Part IV**

#### **Self guided vocabulary study:**

- scurried
- tepid
- angst
- dungarees

### **Grading Rubric**

Author's biography and story are thoroughly annotated\_\_\_\_/10

Responses are complete and include the question as a statement.\_\_\_\_/5

Responses clearly indicate that you understood the selection.\_\_\_\_/10

Quotes and/or examples are used to support your answers\_\_\_\_/5

Grammar and spelling are grade level appropriate, with few or no errors\_\_\_\_/5

Total\_\_\_\_/35