

Standards Focus: Allusions and Terminology**Chapter One**

1. **Soledad**: a city in Monterey County, California
2. **Salinas River**: the largest river of the central coast of California
3. **Gabilan mountains**: mountain range located on California's Central Coast along the Monterey County and San Benito County line
4. **sycamore**: a type of tree found in California, with large leaves and speckled brown and white bark
5. **tramps**: homeless people, often looking for work
6. **stilted heron**: a freshwater bird with a long neck and crested head
7. **bindle**: a bundle of personal belongings; a knapsack
8. **Howard Street**: Howard Street in San Francisco in Northern California; the two men may have stopped in San Francisco to look for work
9. **work cards**: an identity card indicating that a person is legally able to do work
10. **bus tickets**: a ticket that allowed a person to ride the bus
11. **Weed**: A mining town in Northern California, near Mt. Shasta
12. **periscope**: a long tubular instrument, usually on a submarine, that allows a viewer to see objects above the water
13. **thrashin' (threshing) machines**: machines for separating grain crops into grain or seeds and straw
14. **grain bags**: bags that hold seed for grain; usually worn over the shoulder
15. **supper**: a light meal eaten in the evening
16. **carp**: a large freshwater fish
17. **willow cotton**: a willow is a tree with long flexible branches; "willow cotton" is referring to the small flowers the tree bears
18. **stake**: an amount of money, usually enough to risk gambling

19. **brush**: a dense undergrowth of trees and bushes

Chapter Two

1. **bunks**: beds
2. **burlap ticking**: the "tick" is the outer fabric covering of a mattress; in this case the tick is made of burlap, a coarse but sturdy cloth
3. **apple box**: a sturdy wooden box used to store apples before going to market
4. **talcum powder**: a fine, perfumed powder used to absorb moisture on the skin
5. **Western magazines**: magazines full of cowboy stories and tales of the "Old West"
6. **cast-iron stove**: a wood- or fuel-burning stove designed to heat large spaces
7. **stovepipe**: a pipe used as a chimney for a fuel-burning stove
8. **scourges**: causes of widespread devastation such as disease or war
9. **swamper**: a handyman or person who handles odd jobs
10. **blacksmith**: someone who makes and repairs iron and metal objects such as horseshoes
11. **graybacks**: lice
12. **tick**: the outer fabric of a mattress; can refer also to the mattress itself
13. **liniment**: a liquid or cream applied to the skin as a pain reliever
14. **stable buck**: a man who works in a stable, usually feeding and taking care of horses
15. **skinner**: the head driver of animals, usually cattle, mules, or oxen
16. **Stetson hat**: a brand of cowboy hat manufactured by the John B. Stetson company
17. **spurs**: a small spike or spiked wheel attached to the heel of a rider's boot, used to get a horse to move faster
18. **bale**: a large bundle or package

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19. **cesspool**: a covered underground tank or well for the collection of sewage
20. **drag-footed sheep dog**: a sheep dog is a type of dog bred to herd sheep; "dragfooted" means he is very old and moves very slowly and with some trouble
21. **muzzle**: an animal's nose and jaw
22. **Vaseline**: a type of petroleum jelly used to soften the skin
23. **patent medicine**: a medicine in which its contents are not completely disclosed; often these medicines claim to be "miracle cures"
24. **solitaire**: a card game for one person
25. **jerkin skinner**: the main driver of a mule team
26. **mules**: cross between a donkey and a horse
27. **poke**: a small bag or sack
28. **American River**: a river in California where gold was found in 1848, leading to the California Gold Rush
29. **pan gold**: look for gold; originally done using a metal pan for sifting
30. **wheeler**: a draft animal (such as a mule or horse) in a position closest to the wheels of the wagon
31. **bull whip**: a whip used to keep animals in line
32. **temple dancers**: women who perform sacred dances to express worship to their gods
33. **punks**: worthless, lazy young men
34. **blue ball**: in the game of snooker (similar to pool), the blue ball sits at the very center of the table; as the ball is pocketed, the player gets 5 points
35. **bitch**: a female dog
36. **shepherds**: a type of dog bred to herd sheep
37. **triangle**: an instrument made of metal in the shape of a triangle, used to call workers to a meal

Chapter Three

1. **horseshoe game**: an outdoor competition in which players attempt to throw a horseshoe around a stake in the ground
2. **Auburn**: a city located northeast of Sacramento and southwest of Lake Tahoe, California
3. **irrigation ditch**: a ditch to artificially supply dry land with water
4. **slug**: a shot; small drink
5. **rheumatism**: a condition causing inflammation and pain in muscles or joints
6. **Airedale**: a terrier dog breed from Yorkshire, England
7. **pulp magazine**: inexpensive fiction magazines published from the 1920s to the 1950s; named after the cheap wood pulp paper on which they were printed
8. **Peter Rand**: possibly a fictional writer of short stories for pulp magazines
9. **Dark Rider**: unknown story from pulp magazine
10. **cultivator**: a farm implement for stirring and pulverizing soil
11. **Luger pistol**: toggle locked, recoil operated, semi-automatic pistol
12. **leather thong**: a braided leather whip
13. **euchre**: a card game in which each player is dealt five cards and the player making trump must take three tricks to win the hand
14. **drawers**: pants
15. **Susy's place**: a house of prostitution
16. **shot**: a small amount of alcohol
17. **rag rug**: a rug constructed of narrow scraps of fabric
18. **kewpie doll**: a small, chubby doll with a tuft of hair on the top of her head
19. **phonograph**: a term for the first record players
20. **Golden Gloves**: the name given to annual competitions for amateur boxing in the United States
21. **whore house**: a house of prostitution
22. **hoosegow**: jail

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23. **hot cakes**: another name for pancakes
24. **San Quentin**: the oldest prison in California, built in 1852
25. **win'mill (windmill)**: a device for harnessing wind power
26. **chicken run**: an enclosed yard for keeping poultry
27. **alfalfa**: a plant of the pea family, often used for livestock feed
28. **hutches**: small shelters, usually constructed from wire and wood, for keeping small animals such as rabbits
29. **setter dog**: a type of gundog used for hunting game
30. **bunk houses**: living quarters
31. **carnival**: a public festive occasion, often with costumes, music, dancing, rides, and sideshows
32. **circus**: a group of traveling entertainers, including clowns, acrobats, and sometimes animal trainers and their animals
33. **ball game**: refers to a baseball or football game
34. **welter (welterweight)**: a boxer weighing more than 135 pounds but less than 147
35. **terrier**: a dog of any one of many breeds of terrier type, which are typically small, wiry, very active and fearless dogs

Chapter Four

1. **harness**: a set of leather straps fitted to an animal so it can be controlled
2. **riveter**: a worker or machine that joins metal plates together
3. **hame**: a curved bar for controlling a draft animal
4. **trace chain**: a length of metal chain
5. **saddle soap**: a compound used to clean leather

6. **spectacles**: an early term for eye glasses
7. **nail keg**: a barrel or other container for holding nails
8. **rummy**: a card game in which players try for sequential cards
9. **manure pile**: a pile of horse excrement
10. **blackjack**: a card game in which the players seek to make a total closest to, but not more than, 21

Chapter Five

1. **Jackson fork**: a large mechanical hay fork, used for lifting large amounts of hay
2. **pulley**: a mounted wheel with a belt or chain that can change the direction of a pulling force
3. **mangers**: troughs from which livestock eat
4. **mules**: slipper-like shoes
5. **Riverside Dance Palace**: a fictional dance hall, which was a popular form of socialization for young men and women
6. **Hollywood**: Hollywood, California; known as the capital for movie-making
7. **silk**: a fine fiber made from the secretions of silkworms
8. **velvet**: a cotton, silk, or nylon fabric with a soft lustrous touch
9. **dugs**: the teats, udders, or breasts of a female animal

Chapter Six

1. **bull's-eye glasses**: glasses with thick convex lenses
2. **gingham apron**: an apron made from gingham, a checked cotton fabric
3. **snooker**: similar to pool, played with 15 red balls and 6 balls of various colors