

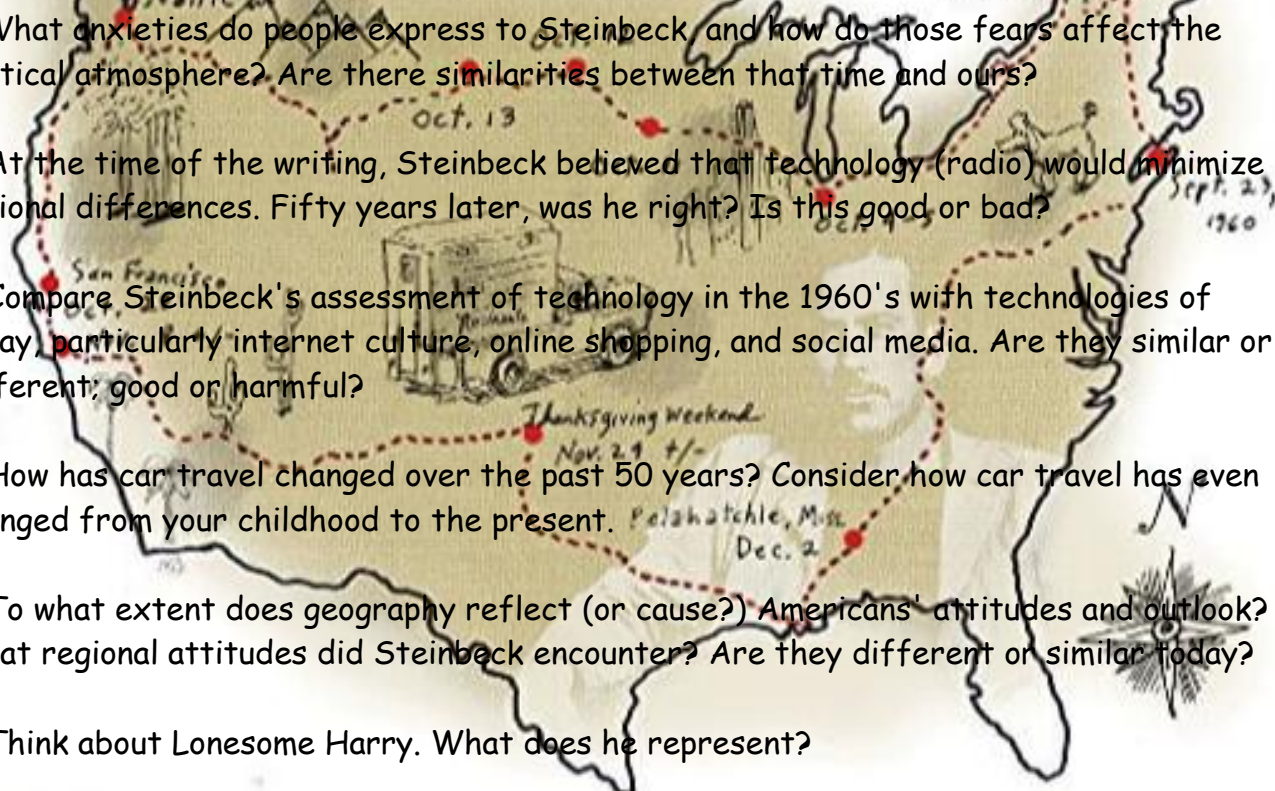
Ringwood's Reading Road Trip

A Community Reads Program

If you are traveling this summer or enjoying a staycation, join your friends, neighbors, and the Ringwood Community on a reading road trip as we explore America together by reading John Steinbeck's Travels with Charley.

Copies of the book are available at the Ringwood Public Library.

As you read Travels with Charley, think about:

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1. What anxieties do people express to Steinbeck, and how do those fears affect the political atmosphere? Are there similarities between that time and ours?
 2. At the time of the writing, Steinbeck believed that technology (radio) would minimize regional differences. Fifty years later, was he right? Is this good or bad?
 3. Compare Steinbeck's assessment of technology in the 1960's with technologies of today, particularly internet culture, online shopping, and social media. Are they similar or different; good or harmful?
 4. How has car travel changed over the past 50 years? Consider how car travel has even changed from your childhood to the present.
 5. To what extent does geography reflect (or cause?) Americans' attitudes and outlook? What regional attitudes did Steinbeck encounter? Are they different or similar today?
 6. Think about Lonesome Harry. What does he represent?
 7. What is Steinbeck's attitude toward immigration and idea of America as a "melting-pot"? What did it mean to be an American in the 1960's vs. today?
 8. What does Steinbeck learn about America during his trip? What has travel taught you?
 9. Why do people want to go on a journey like Steinbeck's? Does the great American road trip appeal to you personally? Why/why not?

Follow the Ringwood Public Library's Facebook page and email newsletter for announcements of events, activities, and possible prizes related to our Community Reads 2021 book Travels with Charley.