

Steinbeck's Use of Nonfiction Sources

Student Name _____ Date _____

The Good Neighbors Women's Club and Ladies' Committee

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The FSA camps ...furnished the migrants with a safe space in which to retire from the discrimination that plagued them and in which to practice their culture and rekindle a sense of community. Although each camp had a small staff of administrators, much of the responsibility for daily operations and governance devolved to the campers themselves. Civil activities were carried out through camp councils and camp courts.

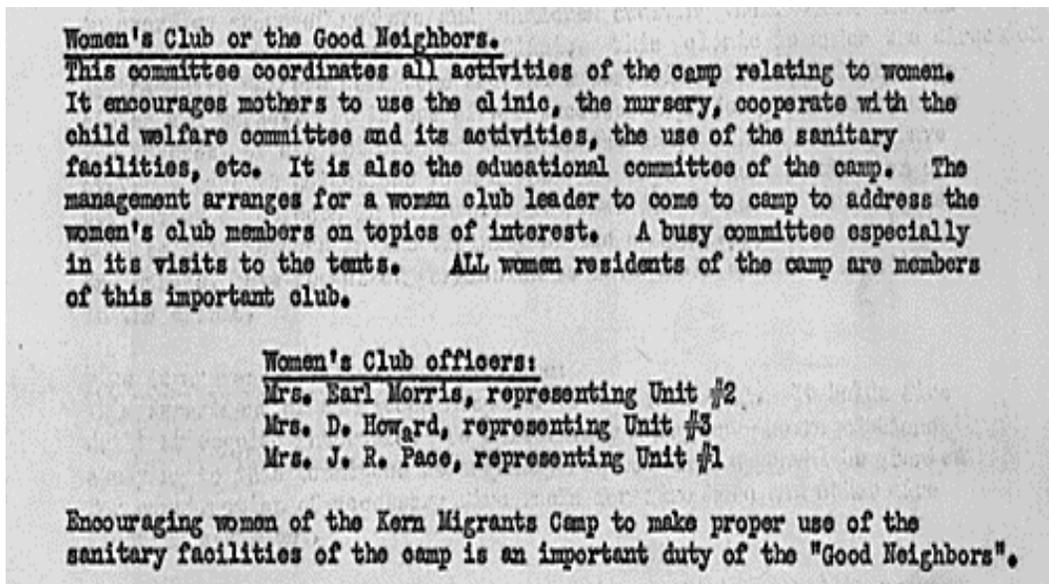
From American Memory's [Voices from the Dust Bowl: The Migrant Experience](#)

CUTTINGS FROM THE COLLINS REPORT

From Collins's report of October 10, 1936

Gone are the days, down here, when we [i.e. the administrators of the camp] scrubbed down the newly arrived children and gave lessons and demonstrations in personal hygiene!! Our people now look after the newcomers--those that are missed are "caught" by the nurse.

From Collins's report of February 28, 1936, p. 24



GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THESE CUTTINGS

1. Find one or two brief passages in *The Grapes of Wrath* that relate to one or two of these activities of the Women's Club (also known as: Good Neighbors Club/Ladies' Club):
 - a. Explaining the use of sanitary facilities;
 - b. Tent visitation;
 - c. Encouraging education;
 - d. Working at the nursery and encouraging its use;
 - e. Increasing usage of the nurse/clinic.
2. In what ways is each passage from *The Grapes of Wrath* similar to its matching passage in the Collins report?
3. In what ways is each passage from *The Grapes of Wrath* different from its matching passage in the Collins report?
4. What label describing how Steinbeck is using each Collins cutting would you apply to each matching passage from *The Grapes of Wrath*?
5. If his use of information about the Women's Club is typical, would you say Steinbeck accurately portrays life in the camp?