

Week 1 Assessment (p. 1-69)

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. “Yesterday he had said to his father that if this brazen glittering sunshine continued, the wheat could not fill in the ear. Now it was as if Heaven had chosen this day to wish him well. Earth would bear fruit” (p. 2).

In this passage ear is a form of a:

- A. Noun
 - B. Verb
 - C. Pronoun
 - D. Adverb
2. In the above passage what word does not define the word brazen?
- A. Bold
 - B. Shameless
 - C. Defiant
 - D. Gaudy

3. “‘It will be ill if we start the woman like this—tea in the morning water and all this washing’
‘It is only one day,’ shouted Wang Lung. And then he added, ‘I will throw the water on the earth when I am finished and it is not all waste’” (p. 5).

This passage best illustrates what characteristic about Wang Lung and his family?

- A. They don’t want the woman to think they have lots of money.
 - B. The Wang Family is very frivolous and believes that all things belong to the earth.
 - C. The Wang Family prefers not to bathe because it is a waste of water.
 - D. The Wang Family would like the new women to only provide what is needed for the family.
4. “‘I am a coarse person, Great and Ancient Lady,’ he said. ‘I do not know the words to use in such a presence’” (p. 17).

What words best describe how Wang Lung feels about himself?

- A. Uneducated and unconfident
 - B. Timid and shy
 - C. Confident
 - D. Self assured
5. O-lan was a slave in the Great House. What was the purpose of Wang Lung’s visit?

- A. To get her so they could be married.
- B. To ask permission from the Great Lord so they could get married.
- C. To ask permission from the lord of the slaves so they could get married.
- D. To pay the dowry for his new wife.

6. What quality does not describe O-lan?

- A. O-lan was a hard worker; she was willing to work around the house and help in the fields.
- B. O-lan was a slave; she tended to father and Wang Lung as a slave would.
- C. O-lan was clever; able to make feasts out of little food, fix tools, tend to the home, and work in the fields with Wang Lung.
- D. O-lan was a partner; she took ownership of the household, family, and fields and worked with Wang Lung to be successful.

7. "Instead he saved it (crops) and sold it when the snow came on the ground or at the New Year when people in the towns will pay well for food at any price" (p. 42-43).

Wang Lung can be described as a simple farmer. However, he seems wise when it comes to business matters. What term or concept best describes what he is doing with his crops?

- A. Meeting the needs of supply and demand. He is able to sell at a high price when the demand is high.
- B. Meeting the needs of supply and demand. He is able to sell at a low price when the demand is high.
- C. Working for trade; trading his goods in town to get the goods he needs from others.
- D. None of the above.

8. "What a pity our child is female whom no one could want and covered with smallpox as well, let us pray it may die" (p. 52).

Who is Wang Lung trying to fool? Why?

- A. The Earth Gods; he did not want to seem greedy that he had a male child
- B. The spirits; he did not want them to cast bad fortune on him and O-lan
- C. The evil spirits; he did not want them to see his good fortune and take it away
- D. God of the weather; he wanted good weather for his crops

9. "And this parcel of land became to Wang Lung a sign and symbol" (p. 58).

What was the land a sign and symbol of?

- A. Determination; to make enough money to pay himself back for the land.

- B. Determination; to buy as much land from the House of Hwang that he would be an inch from its sight.
 - C. Determination; to become successful, a businessman, and mindful.
 - D. Determination; to have more opportunities through the ownership of land.
10. "Sons every year; the house was filled with great fortune—the woman brought him nothing but good fortune. He shouted to his father" (p. 59).

What literary device is the author using?

- a. Irony
- b. Metaphor
- c. Simile
- d. Foreshadow

Week 2 Assessment (p. 70-140)

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. “This year for the first time he sold his grain as soon as it was harvested, and when he felt the silver upon his palm he gripped it hard in defiance. He would, he told himself, in spite of the gods and drought, do that which he had determined...he hurried to the House of Hwang and he met the land agent and he said without ceremony, ‘I have to buy the land adjoining mine by the moat’” (p. 71).

Wang Lung and his family are suffering due to drought. What response gives the best reason for him to purchase this land?

- A. Wang Lung knows the value of land. More land equals more power.
 - B. The more land his can support the better chances of having more viable crops.
 - C. The land by the moat still has access to water. That would give Wang Lung better opportunities to harvest good crops.
 - D. He has good fortune with many sons. He will have enough help to work all of the fields.
2. What factors contributed to the demise of the House of Hwang?
- A. The Ancient Ones need for opium and lavish things.
 - B. The Old Lords desire for new concubines.
 - C. The Old Lord and Ancient One not teaching their children to work.
 - D. All of the above
3. “‘How can we eat the ox? How shall we plough again?’
But the old man answered, tranquil enough, ‘Well, and it is your life or the beast’s, and your son’s life or the beast’s and a man can buy an ox again more easily than his own life’” (p. 75).

Wang Lung’s father is very correct in his assessment to eat the ox. Why does Wang Lung want to save him?

- A. The beast and Wang Lung have ploughed many fields and he has a kinship with it.
 - B. The ox is skinny and frail; there will not be much meat on it.
 - C. Wang Lung is hopeful that it will rain soon and he wants to be able to tend his fields.
 - D. He used the Ox for transportation and did not want to have to walk.
4. What word is the antonym of tranquil in the selection above?

- A. Free from commotion
- B. Unruffled
- C. Peaceful
- D. Noisy

5. “They cannot take the land from me. The labor of my body and fruit of the fields I have put into that which cannot be taken away. If I had the silver, they would have taken it. If I had bought with the silver to store it, they would have taken it all. I have the land still, and it is mine” (p. 79).

The land is a source of what for Wang Lung?

- A. Pride; he knows he has something that the others do not.
 - B. Hope; he knows that he will always have the land and it cannot be taken away.
 - C. Hope; for the future. He knows that the land will be able to provide for his family.
 - D. Honor; he knows he can barter with land to get things he wants.
6. “Once he walked, dragging one foot after another in his famished weakness, to the temple of the earth, and deliberately spat upon the face of the small, imperturbable god who sat there with his goddess. There were no sticks of incense now before this pair, nor had there been for many moons, and their paper clothes were tattered and showed their clay bodes through the rents” (p. 80-81).

How does Wang Lung view the gods now?

- A. Uncaring and unwilling to help when they are needed.
 - B. Harsh they allowed much suffering.
 - C. Willing to condemn people for their success.
 - D. Fair and just good times need to be balanced with bad times.
7. “‘The land we will not sell, surely,’ she said, ‘else when we return from the south we shall have nothing to feed us. But we will sell our table and the two beds and the bedding and the four benches and even the cauldron from the stove. But the rakes and the hoe, and the plow we will not sell, nor the land’”

How are O-lan’s words a source of strength for Wang Lung?

- A. They give him a source of hope for the future.
 - B. She displays strength towards the townsmen.
 - C. He knows she believes in him and they are doing the right thing by going south.
 - D. Her calmness brought him strength and assurance for their decision.
8. Wang Lung and his family are traveling south. They are met by others who are going to meet the “firewagon” to head south on. What are they referring to when they speak of

the “firewagon”?

- A. Horse and buggy
- B. Train
- C. Rickshaws
- D. Cars

9. “...But the notion of holding up a bowl and begging of anyone who passed continued to distress him. It was very well for the old man and for the children and even for the women, but he had his two hands.
‘Is there no work for a man’s hands?’ He asked” (p. 101).

What phrase or words least describe Wang Lung?

- A. Willing to work hard to provide for his family.
 - B. He desires to be self-sufficient.
 - C. Is willing to take advantage of a situation if he can gain from it.
 - D. Knows he has skills and he is willing to use them.
10. Wang Lung was once a self-sufficient farmer. He has moved and his skills are not needed or welcomed. Why does the city encourage people to beg and stay poor instead of using their skills to be self-sufficient?
- A. It enables the government to have more control.
 - B. There is no competition for work or money.
 - C. It forces people to turn to organized political organizations or religion for hope and justice.
 - D. All of the above.

Week 3 Assessment (p. 141-214)

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. The army attacked the Great House and the gates were opened for the first time. What do you think the villagers were expecting to find in the house?
 - A. Rooms of gold and lavish furniture.
 - B. Wonderful food.
 - C. Lots of jewels and money.
 - D. The Great Family.

2. What quality does Wang Lung have that does not allow him to steal? (p. 145).
 - A. Confusion; he was not sure of the situation and decided not to steal.
 - B. Dignity; he had never taken anything that belonged to another.
 - C. Confidence; he doesn't know how to steal and not get caught.
 - D. Both a & b
 - E. None of the above

3. The gate was opened to the great house. Why do you think the living situation of most of the people in the city will not change?
 - A. They had been oppressed and felt that they were owed something from the Great Family.
 - B. Most of the people were un-willing to work. Once they stole from the family and used the money or goods, they were still going to be poor and un-willing to work.
 - C. Most of the people were dependent on the kitchens and begging to survive.

D. All of the above

4. “The Wang Lung, without comprehending it, looked for an instant into the heart of this dull and faithful creature, who had labored all her life at some task at which she won no reward and who in the great house had seen others wearing jewels which she had never felt in her hand once.
‘I could hold them in my hand sometimes,’ she added, as if she thought to herself” (p. 157).

Why is the idea of the jewels so important to O-lan?

- A. As she and Wang Lung owned more property she wanted to have jewels, so she could be seen as a rich man’s wife.
 - B. She had worked hard her entire life she wanted to look at something pretty.
 - C. The jewels, even though she would keep them hidden gave her a sense of self worth.
 - D. She liked the feel of them in her hand.
5. “But all of this was not a sudden thing. All during the lifetime of the Old Lord and of his father the fall of this house has been coming. In the last generation the lords ceased to see the land and took the moneys the agents gave them and spent it carelessly as water. And in these generations the strength of the land has gone from them and bit by bit the land has begun to go also” (p. 163).

What is the meaning of the word ceased in this passage?

- A. Begin
 - B. Stop
 - C. Commence
 - D. Introduce
6. In the above passage, what does the agent mean when she says the lords ceased to see the land?
- A. The lords lost their sight and could not see the land anymore.
 - B. The lords didn’t want to go outside so they didn’t know what the land looked like.
 - C. The lords lost their ability to understand how the land affected their family and just wanted the money that came with it.
 - D. The land was worth a lot of money so the lords sold it.
7. In the passage above what is the meaning of the following phrase, “that the strength of the land has gone from them”
- A. The lords are not physically strong.

- B. The lords have lost their ability to work the land due to machines that will do it for them.
 - C. The lords no longer have to work the land and therefore the heartiness that comes from the land and makes them strong is also gone.
 - D. The land taught previous generations to prevail and work hard. The lords do not have to work the land and the value of hard work and perseverance has been lost on them*.
8. “‘It comes of their leaving the land,’ he thought of his regretfully, and he thought of his own two sons, who were growing like bamboo shoots in the spring, and he resolved on this very day he would make them cease playing in the sunshine and he would set them to task in the field...” (p. 165).

The phrase growing like bamboo shoots in the spring is an example of?

- A. Simile
 - B. Metaphor
 - C. Personification
 - D. Satire
9. Wang Lung takes his boys to the fields each day to have them work. If they cannot work they will at least know what the sun on their bodies feels like as they walk back and forth in the furrows. Why is Wang Lung insistent about teaching his boys the value of hard work?
- A. He wants them to understand their history and be able to appreciate the comforts they have now.
 - B. He wants to make them uncomfortable so they won't want to become farmers themselves.
 - C. He wants their life to be better than his but he knows they have to understand the Good Earth.
 - D. He wants them to understand how brutal the earth can be so they appreciate the food they have on a daily basis.
10. “‘Little fool—my poor little fool—’ And in his heart he cried to himself, ‘and if I had sold this poor mouse and they found her thus they would have killed her’” (p. 171).

Wang Lung and O-lan sacrifice to keep the poor fool. What does she symbolize in the story?

- A. How fragile life can be.
- B. Innocence.
- C. How important it is to see others for their strengths not their weaknesses.
- D. The importance of not giving up on people.

E. All of the above.

Week 4 Assessment (p. 215-290)

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. “The first wife knows nothing of the delicacies which the other one needs for her flower-like body and which you also enjoy” (p. 220).

In this sentence the meaning of the word delicacies means:

- A. Bold
 - B. Beautiful
 - C. Tender
 - D. Honesty
2. “But the old man would not be silent and whether he heard what was said or not no one know only he shouted over and over, ‘There is a harlot here!’” (p. 223).

Why was Wang Lungs father upset that he had brought Lotus to the home?

- A. He felt that they were poor and could not afford to feed another person.
 - B. He did not like how she treated the children.
 - C. He was fond of O-lan and did not want to disrespect her.
 - D. Father was traditional and felt that he only needed on wife like his father and his father’s father.
3. In the above passage, the antonym of harlot is?
- A. Rouge
 - B. Vagabond

- C. Prostitute
- D. Committed

4. Whenever things get bad for Wang Lung he returns to the earth. How does the earth heal him? (p. 228).
- A. The feeling of the soil makes him feel young again.
 - B. The smell of the fresh earth makes him realize he has the power to grow food to feed his family and others.
 - C. The sun on his back makes him realize how much he appreciates hard work.
 - D. The earth made him feel free.
5. What is one sign or symbol best shows that Wang Lung is successful?
- A. He owns land.
 - B. He has a staff working for him.
 - C. His sons are educated.
 - D. Both a & b
6. “Well and that poor fool of mine brings me more comfort than all the others put together” (p. 249).

How does the poor fool bring comfort to Wang Lung?

- A. She is willing to listen and she gives good advice.
 - B. She is a hard worker and contributes to the household.
 - C. She defends Wang Lung and his decisions to the others.
 - D. She never complains, she wants nothing more than having her basic needs met, she smiles, she cherishes Wang Lung, and she does not take any more than she gives from the family.
7. “Well, and if I am to be a scholar, I would like to go to the south to the city and enter a great school where I can learn what there is to be learned” (p. 253).

Why does Wang Lung want his son to stay with the family on the farm?

- A. Wang feels he has enough knowledge and he would like him to help on the farm.
 - B. Wang needs him to run the business in town for him.
 - C. Wang needs him to run the household on his behalf.
 - D. All of the above
8. “All through the long months of winter she lay dying and upon her bed, and for the first time Wang Lung and his children know what she had been in the house, and how she made comfort for them all and they had not known it” (p. 274).

What phrase best describes how Wang Lung and his family had treated O-lan?

- A. With respect and dignity.
- B. They treated her fairly and she had many freedoms.
- C. She was taken for granted by all in the household.
- D. They appreciated all she did for them.

9. “Now these were many words for her at any time, even in health, and she said them more sturdily than he had said anything in many moons...” (p. 281).

In the above passage the word sturdily can best be defined as?

- A. Robustly
- B. Passively
- C. Meek
- D. Mild

10. “And out of his heaviness there stood out strangely but one clear thought and it was a pain to him, and it was this, that he wished he had not taken the pearls from O-lan that day when she was washing the clothes at the pool, and he would never bear to see Lotus put them in her ears again” (p. 290).

What emotion best describes how Wang Lung is feeling in this situation?

- A. Sadness for a life lost so young.
- B. Appreciation for all that O-lan did for him.
- C. Longing for his bad decisions.
- D. Regret for not appreciating O-lan and what her life stood for.

Week 5 Assessment (p. 291-385)

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. “Now may Heaven avert it, but it looks as though there would be such a flood this year as never was, for the water is swelling up over the land...” (p. 291).

In the above sentence the meaning of the word avert can best be described as:

- A. Move from
 - B. Turn away
 - C. Foresee
 - D. To Produce
2. “Wang Lung looked at the child and saw her pretty frightened eyes and her piteous thinness and he said partly to humor her Lotus and partly so he might see the child fed and fattened” (p. 305).

Why does Wang Lung wish to buy the slave for Lotus?

- A. Lotus does not like her own slave since she smells of garlic.
 - B. Wang Lung wishes to see that she is cared for.
 - C. Wang Lung thinks that being a slave is a better life for her.
 - D. All of the above
3. “Now weather the tears would have alone moved Wang Lung he did not know, but he was moved by the words of his son when he said “the great house of Hwangs” (p. 309).

Why is it ironic that Wang Lung may move his family to the House of Hwangs?

- A. He first visited there to get O-lan and he was ashamed to stand before them. Now he would live in the same house that treated him badly.
- B. Wang Lung was able to purchase land from the great house and so buying the house was just another step to take it over.
- C. He is a man of the land; living in a great house removed him from his strength and love.
- D. Both b & c
- E. Both a & c

4. Wang Lung did not start to “know” his second son until late in his teen years. What factors contributed to Wang Lung’s respect of this child?

- A. The second son was educated.
- B. Second son was calm and level headed. He did not react he thought things through.
- C. Second son had made wise decisions as it related to his future bride.
- D. All of the above

5. “Well, and there is my poor fool and whether to take her with me or not I do not know, but take her I must, for there is no one who will see if she is fed or not unless I do it” (p. 317).

Why is no one in the family willing to care for the poor fool?

- A. The children are selfish and see her as a burden.
- B. No one ever taught them how to care for her.
- C. Handicap persons were not prevalent during this time since they were normally killed at birth.
- D. Wang Lung was possessive of the fool and would not allow others to care for her.

6. Which statement below does not support Wang Lung being a good businessman?

- A. He has continually added to his property to maintain bigger more diverse fields.
- B. He made sure his sons were educated so he could not be cheated.
- C. He changed with the needs of the market. He would lend money for land as collateral, he farmed, and he rented land to others.
- D. He gave money freely to his children when they needed it.

7. What statement below best describes the situation in the family after they moved to the great house?

- A. Eldest son wanted all of the finest things and he began to spend much money.
- B. Second son wanted money accounted for and wanted to save.
- C. The sons lost all connection with the land and focused on material goods.
- D. The wives did not want to work and barely cared for their children.

8. How did the birth of his grand children differ from the birth of his own children? Pg. 323

- A. Wang Lung was settled, old, and successful he could afford to sit and wait for the new baby.
- B. The new mother had much support and was able to rest, O-lan gave birth by herself and the next day she was working in the fields.
- C. Wang Lung waited with anticipation and went to the temple to give a sacrifice and pay his respects.
- D. All of the above

9. "He directed his sons that when he himself died he should lie nearest Ching" (p. 328).

What factor did not contribute to their relationship?

- A. Wang Lung treated Ching as an equal and cared for him as family.
- B. Ching saved Wang Lung and his family by giving them food when they most needed it.
- C. Ching was always loyal and had Wang Lung's best interest in mind.
- D. Ching was a thoughtful businessman and was able to negotiate great deals.

10. What will be the downfall of Wang Lung and his house? Circle all that apply.

- A. Wang Lung's sons do not value the land.
- B. Wang Lung ceases to care about money.
- C. Wang Lung gets easily sidetracked by women.
- D. Wang Lung cares too much about what others think.

11. "Since I am not to have a son on the land it is your duty to see to the rents and to the silver that comes in from the land at each harvest. You can weigh and measure and you shall be my steward" (p. 336).

What is the meaning of the word steward in the above passage?

- A. Property manager
- B. Someone who serves food and drinks on a plane or ship
- C. A referee or game marshal
- D. Someone who guides others

12. In the above passage why it is ironic that second son is being placed in charge of Wang Lung's land and management?
- A. Traditionally, this role was left to the youngest child.
 - B. Traditionally, this role should be filled by the oldest child.
 - C. Traditionally, a person in Wang Lung's position would never have land so they would not need a steward.
 - D. None of the above
13. What is the source of the major conflict between first son and second son?
- A. First son and second sons wives did not get along.
 - B. First son and second son argued over the land rights.
 - C. First son should have been placed in charge of the money and land on behalf of his father.
 - D. Second son was too cautious with money and first son wanted to spend it.
14. "There is none other but you I can leave this poor fool of mine when I am gone, and she will live on after me, seeing that her mind has no troubles of its own, and she has nothing to kill her and no trouble to worry her" (p. 376).

What is Wang Lung's biggest concern about the "poor fool"?

- A. He feels the need to plan for her future.
 - B. He knows she will live a long time because she has no worries and he is jealous.
 - C. Wang Lung wants Pear Blossom to kill the poor fool once he is dead.
 - D. Wang Lung is trying to get his children to care for their sister.
15. "So Wang Lung sat, and so his age came on him day by day and year by year, and he slept fitfully in the sun as his father had done, and he said to himself that his life was done and he was satisfied with it" (p. 378).

How is Wang Lung measuring the success of his life? Choose all that apply.

- A. He had bore many sons and his sons had sons—so his legacy will life on.
 - B. He had achieved success as a landowner.
 - C. He was fulfilled by the relationships he had with his friends, family, and wives.
 - D. He lived his life honestly and was fair and just.
16. How did Wang Lung intend to complete his life cycle?
- A. He wanted to be buried next to Ching in the wall of the house.
 - B. He wanted to return to the land and enjoy the spring planting.
 - C. He wanted to return to the house he was born in, enjoy the land that brought him

success, and die peacefully.

D. He intended to be buried with much ceremony in the Great House.

17. What were the sons intending to do with the land once Wang Lung died?

A. Teach their sons about farming so they could continue the family tradition.

B. Sell the land to Westerners so the train could go through and transport rice to the sea.

C. Continue to keep the land in the family since it was so important to Wang Lung.

D. Sell the land and split the money evenly between the brothers.

18. What are the most prevalent character trait(s) for Wang Lung?

A. Wang Lung was a hard worker and good provider for his family.

B. Wang Lung treated all with respect and tried to be fair.

C. Wang Lung was a wise man he treated people with dignity.

D. Wang Lung was not honest in dealing with his personal relationships.

19. What is the most prevalent character trait for O-lan?

A. O-lan was a wonderful partner to her husband.

B. O-lan lived her life with dignity and integrity.

C. O-lan worked hard to provide a wonderful home to her family.

D. O-lan lived her life filled with wisdom and died with dignity.

20. Why is the “poor fool” a pivotal character in *The Good Earth*?

A. The poor fool was a constant for Wang Lung that he could always go back to and care for.

B. The poor fool symbolized hope; showing that all people have something to give to others.

C. The poor fool symbolized resilience; even as her world crumbled around her she was able to survive if her basic needs were met.

D. All of the above

21. Why did Wang Lung’s third son want to go to the war?

A. He wanted to get as far away from farming as possible.

B. He wanted to fight for freedom and for his life to mean something.

C. He was tired of being oppressed.

D. He had no interest in the family business.

22. What is the overall theme of *The Good Earth*?

a. *The Good Earth* conveys the timeless theme of rags to riches.

b. *The Good Earth* conveys the theme of hard work will pay later.

- c. The theme of *The Good Earth* is family and family unity is important for ones success.
- d. Education is the key to success is the overall theme of *The Good Earth*.

23. What are the major conflicts in The Good Earth? Circle all that apply

- a. Man vs. Nature
- b. Man vs. Man
- c. Man vs. Technology
- d. Man vs. Beasts

24. Do you think the title *The Good Earth* is fitting for this novel? Why?

25. Wang Lung's son wanted to go and fight for freedom. Do you think that Wang Lung saw himself as free?

Answer Key

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
A	C	D	C	B
D	D	D	D	D
B	C	B	D	A
A	D	C	D	D
B	C	B	C	A
B	A	C	D	D
A	D	D	A	C
C	B	A	C	D
D	C	A	A	D
D	D	E	D	A,C,D
				A
				B
				C
				C
				A,B,D
				C
				B
				C
				D
				D
				B
				A
				A,B

Short answers for 24 and 25:

24. No, it is ironic that the book is called *The Good Earth*. The earth in this novel is harsh and cruel. It is not forgiving. Although it gives to Wang Lung he had to put a lot into it.
25. Yes, Wang Lung was free. He was far removed from the revolution and was not impacted by it. He was free to purchase land and build a home and business with no issue.