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John Steinbeck

Today, we're going to talk about John Steinbeck... in just a minute.

John Steinbeck was born in 1902 in Salinas, California. The author of 16 novels, six nonfiction books, and two collections of short stories, he is considered one of the most influential American writers of all time.

Steinbeck often wrote about the lives of the working class and the environments they lived in, inspired by his own experience laboring on farms and ranches. *The Grapes of Wrath*, published in 1939, depicts a family of migrant farmers moving from Oklahoma to California during the Dust Bowl. It was celebrated as a cathartic portrait of the bitterness, anxiety, and upheaval millions of Americans faced during the Great Depression, and it won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Other well known works include *Of Mice and Men*, *East of Eden*, and *The Pearl*.

In 1962, Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "for his realistic and imaginative writings, combining as they do sympathetic humour and keen social perception." He died in 1968, leaving behind a literary legacy of portraying the strife of everyday people.

Why do you think Steinbeck's work still resonates with readers today?