1. How does the idea of lost hope or hopelessness, futility, pervade this story? Give examples of characters that have no hope, or have lost it, and show why this idea is so universal in this book. Consider explaining why the little farm is a vision of utopia, and why it is impossible to reach. Why do the characters know they won't get it? You may wish to discuss they symbolism of the farm representing Heaven. Consider the economic conditions of the time.