

Reviews

“This is a book to be read slowly for its savor, and one which, like Thoreau, will be quoted and measured by our own experience.” –*theatlantic.com*

Travels with Charley is a fascinating portrayal of both America in 1960 and its author who learned that he traveled "not so much to see but to tell afterward."–*Bookreporter.com*

“What elevates this book especially is the glimpses it gives of Steinbeck himself, a far more upbeat man than one would expect from the California novels like *Cannery Row*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. His observations of life in the early 1960s capture the country at pivotal moments of history--the time of Sen. John Kennedy and freedom rides. In this respect, Steinbeck creates a time capsule for future generations and a picture of himself that lovers of his writing will treasure.”-*mostlyfiction.com*

Further Reading

Plainsong by Kent Haruf

Ironweed by William Kennedy

The Tortilla Curtain by T. Coraghessan Boyle

Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner

Get a Life by Nadine Gordimer

BOOK CLUB To Go!
Travels with Charley in Search of America
By John Steinbeck

Possible Discussion Questions

1. What are the constants during Steinbeck's trip? What doesn't change from place to place?
2. Why does Steinbeck get lost all the time?
3. Why does Steinbeck include such a long description of Hurricane Donna before his journey even begins?
4. Which of the people Steinbeck meets on his journey are most memorable? Do the people described at greatest length have anything in common?
5. What role does Charley play in the book?
6. What is this book about besides America's people and its landscape?
7. How do Steinbeck's travels reflect the importance of individuality?
8. Why do people want to go on a journey like Steinbeck's?
9. What are the warnings that Steinbeck's friends offer before his trip?
10. Describe one good person and one bad person Steinbeck meets during his journey.

(NoveList & Bookrags.com)