

# Summer Reading Assignments for Urban Assembly New York Harbor School

## Rising Juniors:

### Text:

Steinbeck, John. *Travels with Charley*. New York: Penguin, 1962. (We suggest the Penguin edition listed, but you may read any version you find. The page numbers below correspond to the Penguin edition).

### Assignment: Argumentative Essay

(source for assignment <http://www.paperstarter.com/travelswithcharley.html>)

This list of important quotations from *Travels With Charley: In Search of America* by John Steinbeck. These quotes will help you work with the essay topics. Aside from the thesis statements above, these quotes alone can act as essay questions or study questions as they are all relevant to the text in an important way. All quotes contain page numbers as well.

“When the virus of restlessness begins to take possession of a wayward man, and the road away from Here seems broad and straight and sweet, the victim must first find himself a good and sufficient reason for going.” (3-4)

“A trip...is an entity, different from all other journeys. It has personality, temperament, individuality and uniqueness. A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike.” (4)

“My plan was clear, concise, and reasonable, I think.” (5)

“I thought I might do some writing along the way.... I suppose our capacity for self-delusion is boundless.” (11)

“I know people who are so immersed in road maps that they never see the countryside they pass through....” (23)

“I fed Charley, gave him a limited promenade, and hit the road.” (34)

“The best of learning came on the morning radio, which I learned to love.” (35)

“I have demonstrated that I can’t describe Deer Isle. There is something about it that opens no door to words.” (54)

“On such a trip as mine, so much there is to see and to think about that event and thought set down as they occurred would roil and stir like a slow-cooking minestrone.” (70)

“[Charley] was delighted to be traveling again, and for a few days he was an ornament to the trip.” (124)

**The essay is due the first day of class and must be typed; double space and use 14 point font. Write a thorough essay on one of the following topics. Your essay must include the following:**

**a) A well developed introduction that begins universally, mentions the author and title, includes the three points of discussion, and ends with a clear thesis statement**

**b) A minimum of three body paragraphs (one for each point of discussion) – each must include a minimum of two direct quotations transitioned effectively that vividly prove the thesis statement**

**c) A clear conclusion that begins with a re-worded thesis statement, an effective final tone, and ends universally as the essay began**

**This will count as a first Mastery Work for the first marking period of the school year.**