**Key Words:** California, Migrated, Survived, Worked


**Topic:** Migration struggle

- This article is about the hardships that the dust bowl migrants faced in trying to start over again. This migration brought at least 70,000 people to the San Joaquin Valley alone in the 1930’s. They left because of the massive dust storms in the Midwest and the droughts, which in turn caused desolation. People from the Midwest would have starved to death, because there was little water and no food.

- Hearing about California many decided to head west. When they left their homes in the Midwest they had little money, a few household goods, and their clothes. Sometimes there were so many people in one car that they had to sit on each other’s laps (Holland, 4). They continued to face hardship along the way, and some didn’t know anyone when they arrived (Holland, 1). They were made fun of, had to find work where ever they stopped for awhile, and most were known as “Okies”. Many were destitute, hungry and homeless and were ready to work anywhere at any trade just to be able to feed their families.

- They picked any type of crop that they could, and settled in many different regions of California. Once the residents of California accepted the people who migrated west, they found out that they were not as bad as they had perceived.

- Many of the children had to work as well, picking in the fields, or helping out at schools.
Assessment:

The strengths of John Holland’s article are that he explains to us the hardships that the dust bowl migrants face in trying to start over their life. The “okies” as the migrants were referred to, were made fun of because no one accepted them as who they truly were. These “okies” had to face hard things such as little money, clothing, and a few household items all while trying to earn a living. It is important to understand why these people had to do the hard work that they did. They came to California and were ready to do whatever job they could just to support their families. The importance of migration is that anybody will be willing to do any kind of work just to live. This article relates to many of the class narratives because they talk about the importance of immigration and how hard their families struggle in finding jobs and better economic opportunities in order to support themselves and their families.