REFERENCE SOURCES  Use reference sources for background information, broad overviews, and summaries. * Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are available online in the Literature Resource Center which is accessible from the LPC Library Homepage.

*American Writers* - Volume 4 in this set contains an article on Steinbeck and his novels. Ref PS129.A55

*Characters in 20th-Century Literature* - Features a brief essay examining the main characters in *East of Eden*. Ref PN56.4.H37 1990

*Contemporary Literary Criticism* - Multi-volume set containing excerpts and whole articles offering critical insight into literature. Use the Title Index, located at the end of the set, to find specific criticism on *East of Eden*. Ref PN771.C59

*Dictionary of Literary Biography* - Provides biographical information on Steinbeck in the following volumes:
  Volume 7, *Twentieth Century Dramatists*


*Novels for Students* - Volume 19 in this set contains a section on *East of Eden*, which features a biography, plot summary, major characters, themes, literary style, historical context, critical overview, criticism, and bibliography. Ref PN3385.N68 2004

*Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature* - Good overview of Steinbeck’s life including experiences that influenced his writings. Ref PS21.E537 2004

BOOKS & AUDIOVISUALS  - Use the online catalogs for the LPC Library or local public libraries for print and audiovisual resources on Steinbeck.

Books available at LPC Library

TIP: Scan a book’s table of contents for related essay topics. Use the book’s index to find specific sections related to *East of Eden.*

  Critical study of Steinbeck’s and London’s contributions to “the elusive cultural tradition of America’s largest and most eccentric state.” Sections on Steinbeck: Radicalism; Bourgeois Career, Proletarian Comedies; Femme Fatale. Be sure to check the endnotes beginning on page 204.

*John Steinbeck.* (edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom)  (PS3537.T3234 Z7154 1987)  
  Collection of critical essays of several major works by Steinbeck. (See “Abra: The Indestructible Woman in *East of Eden*” by Mimi Reisel Gladstein.)

Readable account of Steinbeck’s life based on published and unpublished letters, diaries, and manuscripts. Includes photos.


Deals in large part with Steinbeck’s short stories but also discusses themes and characters that appear in many of his works.


Day-by-day account of the writing of East of Eden, “Steinbeck’s longest and most ambitious novel.” The journal was in the form of a series sent to Pascal Covici, Steinbeck’s editor at Viking Press.


First-person account of the author’s “misadventures” in researching and writing the book, which features nonfiction stories, essays, interviews, and anecdotes concerning Steinbeck’s life and work.


Reveals the inner thoughts and character of Steinbeck through letters he wrote from 1923 through 1968.


Collection of essays that “offer a dynamic contribution to the study of Steinbeck by considering his writing from an environmental perspective.” Written by scholars from various disciplines.


“Clear analysis…includes discussions of character development, plot and setting, thematic treatment, historical contexts, and alternate critical readings.” Includes a biographical chapter and an examination of the Steinbeck’s contributions and career to help readers gain a sense of the man.


Lengthy (1,100 pages), well researched, and amply–documented biography derived from Steinbeck’s papers and photographs.

Video

John Steinbeck. (MV 22922) - A portrayal of John Steinbeck's life and work. Sets Steinbeck's writings and his life in perspective to the times.

ONLINE DATABASES - The following electronic databases can be accessed at LPC Library Homepage in the LPC Library or from home Very important resource for distance education students.

Literature Resource Center - Contains biographies, criticism, work overviews and explications, Websites, periodical articles, and more.

Academic Search Premier (EBSCO) - Contains articles on Steinbeck and East of Eden. Click the “Full Text” and “Scholarly Journals” checkboxes to retrieve full-text critical articles by noted literary scholars.

TIP: Check local public libraries for their electronic resources on East of Eden.
INTERNET RESOURCES  Be cautious of information found on the Web since the quality of sources varies tremendously on the Internet. As with all information resources, whether in print or on the Internet, evaluate its quality based on the following criteria:

Accuracy .......Is it free from mistakes and errors?
Authority .......What are the qualifications of the author?
Objectivity .....Is there any strong bias?
Currency ........Is the information up-to-date?
Coverage ........To what extent is the topic explored?

Selected Web Sites

The National Steinbeck Center - Located in the Salinas Valley, Steinbeck’s childhood home, the Center is home to a museum and library devoted to John Steinbeck, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature and the Pulitzer Prize. The collections include books by and about him, local and oral history, audio-visual materials, artwork, and theses. <http://www.steinbeck.org/MainFrame.html>

San Jose State University Center for Steinbeck Studies - This site contains background information on John Steinbeck, his works, and the locales he lived in and wrote about. Includes a chronology of his life, the text of his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, descriptions of his homes, lists of his works, and a list of film and theater adaptations. <http://www2.sjsu.edu/steinbeck/>

Steinbeck: East of Eden - Chapter by chapter plot summary, a list of the major characters, and links to background material for John Steinbeck’s epic novel of the Trasks and the Hamiltons, “two families drawn by the current that brought settlers to the rich farmlands of California.” Created and maintained by a Steinbeck enthusiast. <http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~stephan/Steinbeck/east.html>


Web sites and annotations (edited) are courtesy of Librarians’ Index to the Internet. Copyright 2005 by Librarians’ Index to the Internet, LII.

TIP: When searching Google for other sites on Steinbeck and his works:

1. Click on the Advanced Search link and set domain to .edu
2. Look for articles and essays by scholars, not students.

CITATION OF SOURCES - Suggestion: keep printouts of your sources, or write out all pertinent information on author, title, publisher, date, or Internet address to identify where you got the information. Follow the format recommended by your instructor or ask a librarian to show you a “style manual.” There is a link to instructions for MLA or APA citations on the LPC Library Homepage: Citation Style Guides (http://www.laspositascollege.edu/library/cited.php).

Cheryl Warren & Charlotte Bagby, LPC Librarians

Please feel free to call a reference librarian for help!