

"When I knew that my crop was irrevocably gone, I experienced a deathly feeling which, I hope, can affect a man only once in a lifetime.

My dreams and ambitions had been flouted by nature and my shattered ideals seemed gone forever."

-Lawrence Svobida, "Farming the Dust Bowl"

Great Depression

Dust Bowl

1931 - 1939



HOW LONG
O LORD?



"They are tired and weary of tramping
Of tramping life they say
Some are just waiting
For the end of Life's day."

-Mrs. Mary Sullivan, 1940



YOUR FACE IS TURNED AWAY FROM ME



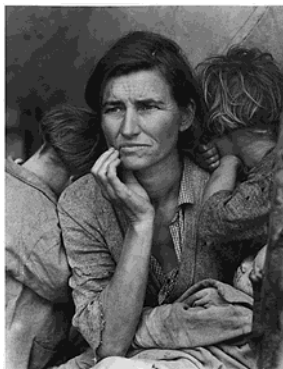
"Wish I was a little goldfish
Swimmin' on the bank of
the sea
Dive to the bottom and
never to rise
For no one cares for me."

-Vernie Allen, 1940



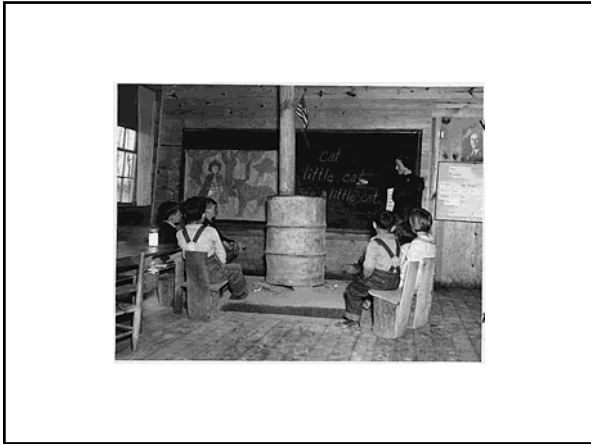
Figure 27. Sunday school pickup near a labor camp, Kern County, 1938. (Dorothea Lange, *The Bancroft Library, Berkeley, California*)

**MY HEART IS
OVERWHELMED
WITH GRIEF**



"When those dust storms
blew and you were out in
them, well, you spit out dirt.
It looked like tobacco juice,
but it was dirt."

-Imogene Glover



“That’s how black it was. A lot of people got out of bed, got their children out of the bed. Got down praying thought that was it. They thought that was the end of the world.”
-Melt White



“And, ah, there was no longer any yard at all there, not a green sprig, not a living thing of any kind, not even a field mouse. Nothing.”
-Judge Cowen



...YOUR UNFAILING LOVE



"Then at last, the rain came..."

-Lawrence Svobida

**BUT I TRUSTED IN
YOUR STEADFAST
LOVE; MY HEART
SHALL REJOICE
IN YOUR
SALVATION.**



"It was a very emotional time,
when you'd get rain, because it
meant so much to you. You
didn't have false hope then.
When the rain came, it meant
life itself. It meant a future."

-Floyd Coen

Psalm 13, New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), 2001.

Photographs from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Courtesy
of National Archives and Records Administration

"How Long O Lord?" by Eden's Bridge, *Celtic Psalms*, 1998.

Quotes from Library of Congress. "Voices from the Dust Bowl,"
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/afctshhtml/tshome.html>. (slide 5 &
8)

Quotes from PBS Special, "Surviving the Dust Bowl." (slides
12, 15, 18 & 23)