

**Depiction of Familial Relationships in American Literature during the Great Depression in
*The Glass Menagerie, Gone with the Wind, and The Grapes of Wrath: A Comparative Study***

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Abstract

This thesis aims to explore how American narrators represented families and family relationships across different states during the Depression Era. The researcher chooses to examine family changes in Tennessee William's *The Glass Menagerie* (1944), Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*, (1936) and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939). The researcher will review the basic main events that led up to The Great Depression, and how it changed the United States. I have provided a summary for every novel as well. Applying comparative analysis, I will analyze the impacts of depression on families and family relationships through selected novels. My thesis reveals that the Great Depression casts a long shadow over families, leading them to undergo reshaping and resilience calculations. Economic strain causes the breakdown of traditional family structures.

Key Words: Depression Era, family, familial relations, society, roles