**Episode 4, Stormy Weather**

*The stock market crash of 1929 ushered in the greatest period of economic malaise in America's history. The Great Depression shaped the atmosphere for a decade; the most prosperous country on earth could not feed its own citizens. But even as Americans were trying to cope with poverty and hunger, the rumblings of a demagogue across the water became louder and louder. This episode examines the Great Depression and the decade of the 1930s, covering events such as the Bonus Army March, movies and radio, the Dust Bowl, FDR and the New Deal and the rise of Hitler in Germany.*

As you watch the episode, take notes in the spaces provided. Go beyond descriptions and definitions… analyze (read

questions as you would read/approach an essay prompt.)

1. What was the Bonus Army? What were its demands? How did the Bonus Army exemplify the frustration of the American people during the Great Depression?

2. The Great Depression was the most severe economic crisis in American history. Identify the causes of the Great

Depression?

3. Almost everyone in the country felt the effects of the Great Depression. In what ways did the depression affect average Americans?

4. Even though the economy failed, many Americans blamed themselves for their unemployment and hard times. Why did so many unemployed Americans blame themselves?

5. People still went to the movies in droves despite the hard times of the depression. Why did the motion picture industry continue to thrive when most other businesses failed?

6. What was the Dust Bowl? How did it exacerbate the Great Depression?

7. Analyze the reasons more Americans joined the Communist Party in the 1930s than any other time.

8. Adolph Hitler and the Nazi party came to power during the German depression. Why were Hitler and Nazism so appealing to Germans in the 1930s?

9. How did Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the president during the Great Depression, use radio to help restore American

confidence in their government and the economy?

10. Was FDR's New Deal radical? Why or why not?

11. What finally ended the Great Depression? To what extent did the New Deal fail?

12. Analyze the legacy of the Great Depression.