I think American Identity means being able to have your independence, your freedom, and to have the equal abilities as other people. The Book Grapes Of Wrath by John Steinback is about a family who owns a farm in Oaklahoma that is successful then all of a sudden gets wiped out by this massive dust storm that ruins everything, like many others at the time they decide to make the move to California. The book Sharp Objects, By Gillian Flyn is about a girl name Camille who is this reporter who goes back to her home town to cover the death of these 2 girls. Both Camille and Joards have this horrible thing that happen to them causing a big change in there life, which they learn valuable lessons from.

In Grapes Of Wrath, The main Character Tom just got released from prison for man slaughter and is currently on his way home and learning about what his family did while he was in prison. He learns that his family has moved in with his uncle after this massive dust storm has destroyed there whole house and farm and they are about to make there move to california. Tom, still confused about everything is trying to adapt to not just a new state but also just coming back into the real world. Tom talks to his family realizing that when they move to california, that they arent bringing anything really and just starting fresh, back from 0. Tom asks, “How can we live without our lives? How will we know it's us without our past?” he talks about this idea that his whole family is from oklahoma, that they will loose who they are once they move and become new people. This relates to the idea of american identity because at this point in the book, they are loosing the whole identity, becoming new people in a new place like a stranger from a strange land.

In Sharp Objects, Camille is a reporter who recently just got out of an insane asylum. She hears about this case of these deaths in her home town and wants to investigate them The only issue is, shes heading to her home town and she hasnt spoken to her family in years, hasnt said one word to them and is heading back there now and is going to see them. She begins to worry, her family didnt know she was in an insane asylum and changed how the whole person she is. “I ached once, hard, like a period typed at the end of a sentence.” Here shes talking about how shes worried about her family not seeing the new person in her when she has completely changed. This relates to the american identity since many people come to the US hoping to be this new person and are scared people are going to just look straight through them and see there pass.

Both Themes in these books are similar as the main Character, Tom and Camille have gone through massive change in life, hoping now as they finish to be this new person and scared about how the world views them. Each one wanting this new identity but scared of the past identity that still haunts them.