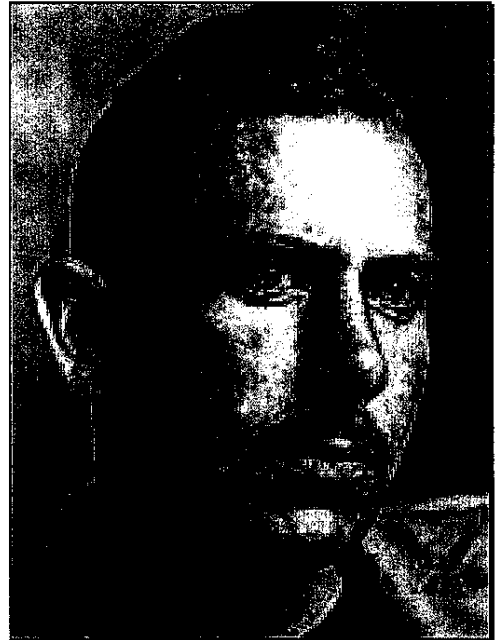
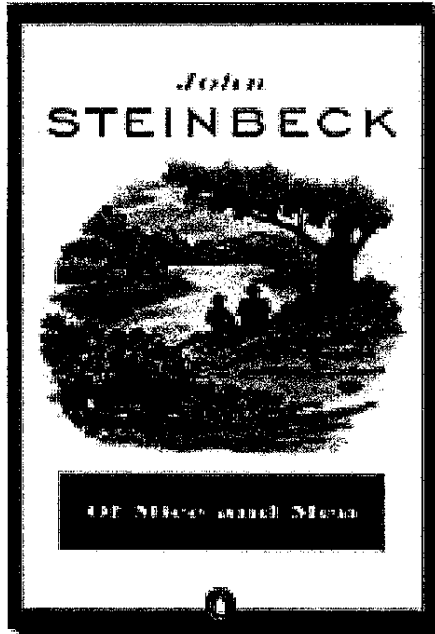


# Cathedral School

English II  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Summer Reading 2018-2019  
*Of Mice and Men*



## REQUIRED TEXT

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck—publisher Penguin Books —mass market paperback  
—This edition does ship Amazon Prime [The cover is pictured on this page.]

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May 23, 2018

Dear Student and Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to **English II American Literature!** Enclosed are the components of your summer reading packet for **John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men***. Your packet consists of literary elements, author biographies, vocabulary, and study questions for the unit.

Each student is **REQUIRED** to have a binder for this class, and it should be with you on **Monday, August 6, 2018**.

You should be prepared for a quiz on vocabulary and literary elements on **Tuesday, August 7, 2018** and an *Of Mice and Men* unit recall test on **Thursday, August 9**. **All parts of your packet** and all other school supplies will be due **Monday, August 6, 2018**. **Packets are a 100-point major grade. A late packet will have 7 points subtracted for each school day that it is late.** Below, I have included a list of supplies you will need for the upcoming year in English II.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Loe

**Supply List:**

One package of notebook dividers with at least 5 dividers  
Two packages of standard wide rule loose-leaf paper  
Two or more red pens for corrections

One 2" – 3" binder  
Thesaurus and Dictionary for home use

One package of Black pens  
One box of Kleenex

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS, INCLUDING THIS PACKET, MUST BE COMPLETED IN BLACK INK ONLY. ABSOLUTELY NO PENCILS.**



**Dates to Remember**

- 
1. **Written Assignments** **Written Assignments (Summer Reading Packet) will be due Monday, August 6th, 2018**  
\*\*\*A LATE PACKET WILL INCUR A 7-POINT PENALTY FOR EACH SCHOOLDAY THAT IT IS LATE\*\*\*
  2. **Vocabulary/Literary Elements Quiz** [50 points] **Tuesday, August 7, 2018**
  3. ***Of Mice and Men* Unit Recall Test** [100 points] **Thursday, August 9, 2018**

## John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*

### Historical Context:

- *Of Mice and Men* depicts life in America during the Depression years (1930's)
- People were in despair. Many had lost everything they had worked for, and they saw no hope for the future.
- Families were forced to leave the farms that had been their homes for generations.
- Rootlessness and poverty became the new way of life.
- People were forced to fend for themselves.
- The solitary ranch hands in *Of Mice and Men* are typical of this era.
- They drift from one ranch to another, rarely making friends or much money.
- They have no plans beyond the next Saturday night.
- When they leave a place and roam on, no one else cares.
- Steinbeck takes the title *Of Mice and Men* from the poem "To a Mouse," by Scottish poet Robert Burns.

### To a Mouse

On turning her up in her nest with the plough, November 1785

Wee, sleekit, cow'rin tim'rous beastie,  
O, what a panic's in thy breastie!  
Thou need na start awa sae hasty,  
                    Wi' bickering brattle!  
I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee  
                    Wi' murd'ring pattle!

I'm truly sorry man's dominion  
Has broken Nature's social union,  
An' justifies that ill opinion  
                    Which makes thee startle  
At me, thy poor earth-born companion,  
                    An' fellow mortal!

I doubt na, whyles, but thou may thieve;  
What then? Poor beastie, thou maun live:  
A daimnen icker in a thrave  
                    'S a sma' request;  
I'll get a blessin' wi' the lave,  
                    And never miss 't!

Thy wee bit housie, too, in ruin!  
Its silly wa's the win's are strewin'!  
An' naething, now, to big a new ane,  
                    O' foggage green!  
An' bleak December's winds ensuin,  
                    Baith snell and keen

Thou saw the fields laid bare an' waste,  
                    An' weary winter comin' fast,  
An' cozie here, beneath the blast,  
                    Thou thought to dwell,  
Till crash! the cruel coulter passed  
                    Out-thro' thy cell.

That wee bit heap o' leaves an' stibble  
Has cost thee monie a weary nibble!  
Now thou's turned out, for a' thy trouble,  
                    But house or hald,  
To thole the winter's sleety dribble,  
                    An' cranreuch cauld!

But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane,  
In proving foresight may be vain;  
The best laid schemes o' mice an' men  
                    Gang aft agley,  
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,  
                    For promis'd joy!

Still thou art blest compar'd wi' me!  
The present only toucheth thee:  
But och! I backward cast my e'e  
                    On prospects drear!  
An' forward, though I canna see,  
                    I guess an' fear!

# *Of Mice and Men* Study Guide

## Author Biography

John Steinbeck (1902-1968) was born in Salinas, California. He came from a middle class family. His father was the county treasurer, and his mother was a former schoolteacher. She inspired and encouraged his love of books and reading.

He attended Stanford University, but he did not graduate. In his twenties, he traveled to New York City with the dream of supporting himself as a freelance writer. When his efforts failed, he went home to California. He then began to work seriously on novels and short stories.

When Steinbeck was a young adult, he spent his summer vacations working as a hired hand on local ranches. His interactions with the people he met during those summers greatly influenced the characters he created throughout his career. In an interview following the publication of *Of Mice and Men*, Steinbeck revealed that all the characters in the novel are composites based on real people.

Steinbeck said in his essay "Advice for Beginning Writers" (1963) that he still felt afraid every time he began writing a story, even though he had a long successful writing career behind him. He went on to say that a writer who does not experience this fear may not have an appropriate respect for the art of writing.

## Book Summary

### Background

*Of Mice and Men* was published in 1937, after John Steinbeck had achieved literary acclaim with his novel *Tortilla Flat* but before he wrote his better known works *The Grapes of Wrath* and *East of Eden*. The story epitomizes the themes and ideas that Steinbeck propounded throughout his novels: the plight of the laborers, the perils of isolation, and the hope for a better future. Set in California during the Great Depression, *Of Mice and Men* is an excellent vehicle to learn about the life and times of migrant workers in the 1930s. With its beautiful descriptive passages, easily accessible dialogue, and fast-paced timeline, it is very easy to follow along. Readers are drawn in by the memorable characters, that, ironically, represent a segment of society that was largely ignored in its day. Analyzing the balance of power, the importance of friendship, and the role of dreams in our lives allows readers to gain a deeper understanding of the text while applying valuable lessons to their own lives.

### Novel Setting

*Of Mice and Men* is set in the Salinas Valley of Southern California in the late 1930's, the era of the Great Depression. Like many writers of the Modern Period (1915-1945), John Steinbeck attempts to make sense of the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; he sees the humanity in a class of people who are often ignored by writers and by society at large. These issues are further developed in Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

### Character List

Below is a list of the major characters from *Of Mice and Men*.

- **Lennie Small:** a nondescript, hulking creature of a man whose childlike mentality continually gets him into scrapes with men who neither respect nor understand him.
- **George Milton:** a small, lean man, used to fighting for his place in the world. He oversees and protects Lennie.
- **Slim:** a tall skinner (a highly skilled mule-driver) that serves as a counselor to the ranch hands.
- **Candy:** The one-handed ranch worker who has lived past his prime.
- **Curley's wife:** never named, she is not respected by the men on the ranch.
- **Crooks:** the African-American stable buck is called Crooks because of a spinal injury inflicted by a kicking horse.
- **Curley:** the boss' son, he possesses a jealous, cruel streak.

### Synopsis

John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men* places the reader in Depression-era California, traveling from job to job with two migrant laborers, George Milton and Lennie Small. The novel explores their friendship, in contrast to the isolation of their peers, and the way dreams can either sustain or discourage people. It also addresses a variety of issues, including racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination, that play out against the backdrop of lonely people seeking happiness. In addition to examining important ethical dilemmas, studying *Of Mice and Men* provides an opportunity to discuss literary devices such as foreshadowing, symbolism, and point of view.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

*Of Mice and Men* Vocabulary

On the blank provided, define the following words and include the part of speech. Then, use each word in a sentence using characters and events from *Of Mice and Men*.

Example:

placard **(noun) a notice for display in a public place** \_\_\_\_\_

sentence **The Joad family received a placard which told of numerous jobs available in California.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. recumbent \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

2. morosely \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

3. contemplated \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

4. imperiously \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

5. dejectedly \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

6. pugnacious \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

7. derogatory \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

8. plaintively \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

9. apprehensive \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

10. gravity \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

11. raptly \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

12. reprehensible \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

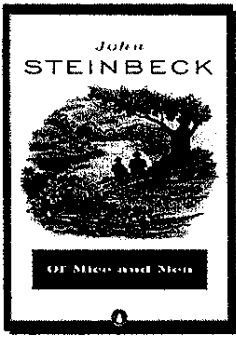
13. bemused \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

14. wryly \_\_\_\_\_

sentence \_\_\_\_\_

- 15. aloof \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. disarming \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. contemptuously \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. indignation \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. averted \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. complacently \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. contorted \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. writhed \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. bewildered \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. belligerently \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. monotonous \_\_\_\_\_  
sentence \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* Study Questions

Answer the following questions **in complete sentences** on your own paper in **black ink**.

### Section 1

1. How does Steinbeck convey Lennie's animal-like qualities?
2. Why does Steinbeck describe the actions of Lennie's hands?
3. What is George's attitude toward Lennie in this section? Why does he stay with Lennie?
4. Explain the connection between Lennie's mouse and what happened in Weed.
5. Describe George's dreams in this section.
6. What suggests that the dream of the farm is unrealistic?
7. Give some examples of foreshadowing in this section.

### Section 2

1. Most of the opening paragraph of this section consist of realistic description of the bunkhouse. What detail suggests that the ranch hands have a "romantic" side?
2. How does the account of Whitney's quitting contribute to the book's mood of alienation?
3. Why is the stable buck set apart from the other men?
4. Which character names from this section have symbolic importance?
5. Why is the boss suspicious of George and Lennie?
6. What explanation is given for Lennie's mental condition? Is it accurate?
7. What is Candy's attitude toward Curley?
8. What is Candy's opinion of Curley's wife? Does it seem justified?
9. What qualities does the description of Slim suggest?
10. What is the significance of Slim's and Carlson's remarks about the dogs?
11. Give some examples of foreshadowing in this section.

### Section 3

1. What does George's conversation with Slim reveal about his past treatment of Lennie?
2. Why does George trust Slim?
3. What is George's analysis of Lennie's attack on the girl in Weed? Does it seem probable?
4. Analyze Carlson's reasons for and Candy's reasons against shooting Candy's dog. How do they touch on the central issues of the novel?
5. Why does George decline Whit's invitation to visit the brothel?
6. Relate George's description of the farm to the novel's theme of a romantic Eden.
7. Is it a realistic dream?
8. What comparisons does Candy make between his own condition and his dog's? How does this reinforce the theme of responsibility?
9. What does Lennie's fight with Curley show the ranch hands? What does the description of the fight suggest about the nature of violence?
10. Give some examples of foreshadowing in this section.

#### Section 4

1. What does the description of Crooks' room reveal about its occupant?
2. Why is Crooks' name appropriate?
3. Why does Crooks allow Lennie to enter his room?
4. How do Crooks' words to Lennie about loneliness reinforce this theme in the novel?
5. What is Crooks' reaction to the dream of the farm?
6. How does the behavior of Curley's wife seem deliberately designed to provoke the men?
7. What motives does Steinbeck suggest for her behavior?
8. How is her nature as a destructive character most clearly revealed?
9. In what ways does Crooks retreat before her attack?
10. Give some examples of foreshadowing in this section.

#### Section 5

1. How is Lennie's treatment of his dead puppy typical of his character?
2. In what way is Curley's wife also a dreamer? Is her dream any more realistic than George and Lennie's?
3. How does Curley's wife feel about him?
4. How does she entice Lennie into touching her?
5. What is the nature of his attack?
6. How does Lennie react to what he has done?
7. How does George's reaction to the murder relate to his belief in the dream?
8. Compare the reactions of Curley and Slim.

#### Section 6

1. Describe Lennie's state of mind as he goes to hide in the brush.
2. The description of Lennie's death recalls another event in the novel. What is it?
3. What does the parallel reveal about George's motives?
4. Explain George's last remarks to Lennie.
5. Why does George lie about the gun?
6. Why does Slim treat George as he does?
7. Explain the significance of the last line in the novel.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

### Literary Elements

Listed below are the definitions of literary elements found in *Of Mice and Men* and other works we will be covering this year. This is to remain with you in your binder the entire year. There will be a quiz on these words the first week of school. You will also have to apply these terms to the novel as well.

1. **Allegory** An allegory is a story or tale with two or more levels of meaning—a literal level and one or more symbolic levels. The events, setting, and characters in an allegory are symbols for ideas or qualities.
2. **Allusion** An allusion is a reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work, or a work of art.
3. **Antagonist** An antagonist is a character or force in conflict with a main character, or protagonist.
4. **Apostrophe** An apostrophe is a figure of speech in which a speaker directly addresses an absent person or personified quality, object, or idea.
5. **Character** A character is a person or an animal that takes part in the action of a literary work.
  - A. A **round character** is one who is complex and multifaceted, like a real person.
  - B. A **flat character** is one who is one-dimensional.
  - C. A **dynamic character** is one who changes in the course of a work.
  - D. A **static character** is one who does not change in the course of a work.
6. **Characterization** Characterization is the act of creating and developing a character.
  - A. **Direct characterization** occurs when a writer simply states the character's traits.
  - B. **Indirect characterization** occurs when character is revealed through one of the following means:
    1. words, thought, or actions of the character
    2. descriptions of the character's appearance or background
    3. what other characters say about the character
    4. the ways in which other characters react to the character
7. **Climax** The climax is the high point of interest or suspense in a literary work.
8. **Conflict** A conflict is a struggle between opposing forces.
  - A. **Internal conflict** occurs within a character.
  - B. **External conflict** occurs within is between a character and an outside force.
9. **Crisis** In the plot of a narrative, the crisis is the turning point for the protagonist—the point at which the protagonist's situation or understanding changes dramatically.
10. **Dialect** A dialect is the form of a language spoken by people in a particular region or group.
11. **Dialogue** A dialogue is a conversation between characters. Writers use dialogue to reveal character, to present events, to add variety to narratives, and to arouse their readers' interest.
12. **Figure of speech** A figure of speech, or figurative language, is an expression or word used imaginatively rather than literally.
13. **Flashback** A flashback is a section of a literary work that interrupts the chronological presentation of events to relate an event from an earlier time.

14. **Foreshadowing** Foreshadowing in a literary work is the use of clues to suggest events that have yet to occur.
15. **Imagery** Imagery is the descriptive or figurative language used in literature to create word pictures for the reader. These pictures, or images, are created by details of sight, sound, taste, touch, smell, or movement.
16. **Irony** Irony is a contrast between what is stated and what is meant, or between what is expected to happen and what actually happens.
- A. Verbal irony occurs when a word or a phrase is used to suggest the opposite of its usual meaning.
  - B. Dramatic irony occurs when there is a contradiction between what a character thinks and what the reader or audience knows.
  - C. Irony of the situation occurs when an event happens that contradicts the expectations of the characters, of the reader, or of the audience.
17. **Metaphor** A metaphor is a figure of speech in which one thing is spoken of as though it were something else.
18. **Narrator** A narrator is a speaker or character who tells a story.
19. **Naturalism** Naturalism was a literary movement among novelists at the end of the nineteenth century and during the early decades of the twentieth century. The Naturalists tended to view people as hapless victims of immutable natural laws.
20. **Paradox** A paradox is a statement that seems to be contradictory but that actually presents a truth.
21. **Point-of-view** Point of view is the perspective, or vantage point, from which a story is told.
- A. In the **first-person point-of-view**, the narrator is a character in the story and refers to himself or herself with the first-person pronoun "I."
  - B. In the **omniscient third-person point of view**, the narrator knows and tells about what each character feels and thinks.
  - C. In the **limited third-person point of view**, the narrator relates the inner thoughts and feelings of only one character, and everything is viewed from this character's point of view.
22. **Protagonist** The protagonist is the main character in a work.
23. **Realism** Realism is the presentation in art of the details of actual life. Realism was also a literary movement that began during the nineteenth century and stressed the actual as opposed to the imagined or the fanciful. The Realist tried as opposed to write objectively about ordinary characters in ordinary situations.
24. **Setting** The setting of a literary work is the time and place of the action. A setting may serve any number of functions. It may provide a background for the action.
25. **Theme** Theme is the central message or insight into life revealed by a literary work.