

Entering 9th Grade English: Fall 2023

SUMMER READING: Of Mice and Men



In order to be best prepared for joining our English classroom in the fall, you will read **ONE classic work of literature** (*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck) this summer and complete the associated assignments. These assignments are meant to (1) supply you with references for in-class discussions and (2) give you a head start on the first assignment of the fall semester. All Readings and Assignments will be due at the end of the first week of school (usually this is a 3 day week). The Second Assignment (The Book Report) will be the basis of your **FIRST** essay in English 9.

9th Grade Required Reading

- Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*. New York, Penguin Books, 1994.

After reading, select **one** of the following as a final project for our reading of the novel. Projects will be graded on the use or **representation of details from the novel**, the **overall understanding** of the novel demonstrated by the project (this can include theme, character awareness, etc.), **creativity** of the product (I want to see your ideas and work, not those of others repurposed for your project), and **finishing touches** (the effort you put in to making the project look great and feel cared for).

If you like comics...

Graphic Novel / Comic Book

Recreate the story in a graphic novel (i.e. comic book) format. Choose the most important scenes – in your view– and tell the story of *Of Mice and Men* while sharing it with an audience through the combination of illustration and words. Use the language of the book where appropriate, and include details in the actual drawings. Part of your grade will be based on the quality/effort put into the artwork (no stick figures). Include an introduction in which you explain what you tried to capture in your recreation of the novel (e.g., “I wanted to emphasize the extent to which Holden rejects society and reveals himself as a rebel. I did this because... and showed it by...”), and what aspects of the novel (mood, imagery, etc.) you are trying to convey in your illustration.

If you like games...

Board Game

Take your close reading of the novel and turn it into a game! Be sure to use specific details from the text. The purpose of this project is to help someone understand George and Lenny and their journeys as well as you do, not to quiz people on facts. Consider giving players choices and challenges, rather than asking trivia

questions. You may model your game on an existing game (i.e. The Game of Life) or create your own. The game should help others learn in an innovative way and think about the novel's conflicts and themes. You must include all pieces and instructions in order for the game to be played effectively.

If you like arts & crafts...

Lennie's Scrapbook

Create a scrapbook of memorabilia that Lennie might have collected or come across during the novel. All artifacts must be captioned with where he got it, its significance to him, and the page you found it on from the novel. Think of the images that keep recurring in the novel, the places George and Lennie go, and anything he collects or finds pretty. Be thoughtful in the choice of memorabilia for your scrapbook. Each item should be accompanied by at least a paragraph (3-5 sentences) using text evidence to explain its significance. This project will be assessed based on the amount of memorabilia collected (at least ten items) and the quality/effort put into making the scrapbook.

If you like media...

Instagram

Create an Instagram account for Lennie or George. Your project should include at least twenty posts that relate in some way to one of the major themes of the novel. For each of your posts, you must include a caption with a description of the image and its connection to the theme, how it ties to the text, and the page numbers of the novel that it connects to. Think of a creative and appropriate username for the character, as well as a quote for his profile that he might pick if he were the creator of it. Your profile must mention that this is a school project in connection with *Of Mice and Men*, due to the numerous fake accounts that exist on social media. You must also make the account public so that I can access it. Please check out an example account (although it is for another book): @i_forgot_my_real_name. You can also avoid doing this online and make an Instagram replica specifically on poster board; for this, make sure you examine an actual Instagram account and include all of the details necessary.

If you like social justice...

Understanding Discrimination

Prepare a **lecture/presentation on an aspect of discrimination** emphasized in the novel (i.e. racism, sexism, ageism). Explain the ramifications of how people perceived to be different were treated. Your presentation should be at least ten slides using Powerpoint, prezzi, or another visual medium and the delivery of your verbal lecture should last about 2-3 minutes. Include a Works Cited page of sources you used.

If you like creative writing...

Lennie's Obituary

Create a newspaper released after Lennie's death. Chronicle all major events of the book as well as incorporating information from the time period. You should have at least four major articles, a title, date, advertisements and formatted like a newspaper. Each newspaper article should be at least 150 words long and the newspaper should include at least 2 images.

9th Grade Of Mice and Men Book Report

Using *Of Mice and Men*, complete a book report as detailed below.

Book Report Structure -

2-3 pages in length, MLA Format (times new roman, 12 point font, double spaced)

- **INTRODUCTION**

- First sentence: Name of book, type of book (historical novel, biography, etc.), author
- Second sentence: number of pages, main subject, main character's name
- Third sentence: Describe the setting and theme (this is often easier to write after you've written the rest of the report)

- **PARAGRAPH 2: PLOT**

- At the opening of the book, what is happening? (1-2 sentences) \
- What trials does the main character face throughout the book? (3-4 sentences)
- What is the climax of the book? (1 sentence)
- How does the book resolve? (1 sentence)

- **PARAGRAPH 3: THEME: WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE STRUGGLE THAT THE CHARACTER IS FACING?**

- Point 1: what is the character like in the beginning? List one specific thing that happened that shows you this.
- Point 2: What effect do the challenges that the main character face have on that character? List three specific events and their effects.
- Point 3: How does the main conflict in the book change the character? What does this tell you about the theme that the author is trying to convey?

- **PARAGRAPH 4: CONCLUSION**

- What did you like about the book?
- Restate the theme and how it is resolved.
- What makes the book special (or not special)?
- Who would you recommend this book to and why?