

English III Honors: Summer Assignment

Instructions: For your Summer Reading Project, you will read the novel: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and complete the attached assignment as you read.

Book Background: *Of Mice and Men* is an American novel that highlights on the aspects of two outsiders striving to find their place in an unforgiving world. Drifters in search of work, George and his simple-minded friend Lennie have nothing in the world except each other and a dream. This novel addresses themes such as the friendship of a shared vision, and giving voice to America's lonely and dispossessed. *Of Mice and Men* has proved one of Steinbeck's most popular works.

Assignment:

Part 1 - For each of the six chapters you will complete a DETAILED and THOROUGH analysis chart that consists of the following...

- **Level 1 question** (what did the text say) ex) Why did Boo get sent to the courthouse basement?
- **Level 2 question** (what does the text mean) ex) How does Boo getting sent to the courthouse basement exemplify Maycomb's racial prejudice?
- **Level 3 question** (beyond the text – why does it matter.....don't forget that level 3 questions need a quote) ex) The text stated "The sheriff hadn't the heart to put him (Boo) in the jail alongside negros...". Are all people who have prejudice evil? Is racism more about hatred or more about ignorance?
- **Meaningful Quote** (Choose ONE significant quote from the chapter, provide the quote, the page number, who said it, and interpret/explain the significance behind the quote)
- **Character analysis** (Choose ONE character and an important action they exhibited within the chapter that contributes to the meaning of the chapter as a whole)
- **Literary Element** (Choose ONE element that you see present in the chapter, explain what the element is and how it contributes to the meaning of the chapter as a whole):
 - Theme
 - Conflict
 - Characterization
 - Symbolism
 - Personification
 - Metaphor
 - Imagery
 - Irony
 - Allusion
 - Setting/Context
 - Motif

Part 2: Write a thesis statement responding to the given prompt.

Thesis = Topic + Active Verb + Concept/Claim

Part 1 - Analysis Chart

Chapter 1

Level 1	
Level 2	
Level 3	
Meaningful Quote	
Character Analysis	
Literary Element	

Chapter 2

Level 1	
Level 2	
Level 3	
Meaningful Quote	
Character Analysis	
Literary Element	

Chapter 3

Level 1	
Level 2	
Level 3	
Meaningful Quote	
Character Analysis	
Literary Element	

Chapter 4

Level 1	
Level 2	
Level 3	
Meaningful Quote	
Character Analysis	
Literary Element	

Chapter 5

Level 1	
Level 2	
Level 3	
Meaningful Quote	
Character Analysis	
Literary Element	

Chapter 6

Level 1	
Level 2	
Level 3	
Meaningful Quote	
Character Analysis	
Literary Element	

Part 2: Thesis Statement*

Prompt – A major theme within *Of Mice and Men* is loneliness and what results from feeling secluded. Most of the characters with the novel are misfits; they do not seem to belong to any definable group. Some are marginalized because of color, some because of intellect, and others because of physical deformities. Whatever the reason for characters finding themselves outside acceptable society, you must decide who is the most marginalized of all the characters, choose the reason behind why he or she is not accepted, and explain how their characterization contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

***NOTE: Remember that a thesis statement is ONE SENTENCE, not a full essay or even a paragraph. This would be your MAIN CLAIM, located at the end of an introduction paragraph, if you were to write an essay about this prompt. Be sure to also include a T.A.G. (explained below).**

T.A.G. = Title (*Of Mice and Men*), Author (John Steinbeck), Genre (novel/book/Fiction)

A simple structure to follow, if you need help, might be:

TOPIC (general idea(s) this essay will be about) + ACTIVE VERB (i.e. portrays, characterizes, evokes, reveals, argues, etc.) + CLAIM (point you are going to prove) = STRONG THESIS STATEMENT

Example: Through the contrasting river and shore scenes in the novel *Huckleberry Finn*, author Mark Twain suggests that to find the true expression of American democratic ideals, one must leave “civilized” society and return to nature.

Please write or type your thesis statement below this line.
