

English I Summer Reading 2019

Of Mice and Men Reading Guide and Summer Reading Assignment

Use the following points to guide your thinking as you read ***Of Mice and Men*** by John Steinbeck.

Answer these questions in your own handwriting, using complete sentences in blue or black ink on lined notebook paper. These will be due the first day of class. Additionally, you will be taking a test over the book and write an essay during the first week of class. The more thorough your reading, the more adequately you will respond to the prompt that you will receive the first week.

One aspect of John Steinbeck's style is to create a setting so powerful, it can be viewed as a character. How did he use his beloved California to develop the characters and themes of the novel? Remember, setting is time, place, and objects.

What words did John Steinbeck use when developing setting and character?

Why did he pick those specific descriptors?

How else could he have described them?

Of Mice and Men is about relationships between people. Surface-level character traits can hide more complex traits. What can we see beyond a character's actions?

How does Steinbeck develop the theme of loneliness?

How does he develop the theme of friendship?

How does the time period of the Great Depression make Lennie and George's relationship more meaningful?

Of Mice and Men gets its title from the poem by Robert Burns, "To a Mouse." How are people at times helpless to control their situation?

Do plans always work out? Are efforts sometimes futile? Even when they seem futile, are they still worthwhile?

What do you believe the five most significant quotes are from this novella and what makes them significant?

Enjoy reading this American classic!