

Summer Reading Assignment

English I Pre-IB: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

For each of the following questions choose **ONLY 1** to address. Your response must provide a thesis, integrated evidence from *Of Mice and Men* to back up your point(s) from your thesis, and (if asked) provide an example from modern day society. Your response should be at 250 - 350 words, double spaced, and should use proper, formal academic language. This assignment is **due on September 10, 2021**, but you may turn it in beforehand.

Choose from **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Compare how Carlson's opinion of Curley's wife in *Of Mice and Men* reflects the struggles women face in modern society today?
2. In *Of Mice and Men* analyze how oppression affects George and Lennie differently?
3. How does the treatment of Crooks' character in *Of Mice and Men* mirror the injustices of minorities today?

EXAMPLE Provided Below:

Sample Question:

In *Of Mice and Men*, how does the isolation of Curley's wife compare to the isolation experienced by Lennie, Candy, and Crooks?

Sample answer:

Crooks, Lennie, and Candy are all outsiders because of how they are viewed by others at the ranch. However, they are able to find companionship in each other's company, as in Chapter 4. Curley's wife, on the other hand, is isolated in Chapter 4 because of the way she views herself. She considers herself better than Crooks, Lennie, and Candy. When she enters Crooks's room she remarks, "They left all the weak ones here." Curley's wife does not see herself as a "weak one." She thinks she is superior to Crooks because she is white and he is black. At the end of Chapter 4 when she gets angry at Crooks, she exclaims, "Well, you keep your place then ... I could get you strung upon a tree." Her sense of isolation is compounded by the fact that, unlike the three men, she has no possibility of companionship on the ranch with a woman who could become a friend.