

English 10 and 10 Honors Summer Work 2024 - 2025

Instructions: Read and annotate *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. Be ready to take part in class discussions and writing tasks from the first day of school. Close reading and insightful annotations will prepare you for this.

Annotation Guide

Annotate your interpretations, thoughts, reactions, and ideas about the following:

- **Title:** what it symbolizes, where it might originate from
- **Setting:** reflects time period of the Great Depression in America, foreshadows events, symbolizes major themes
- **Character:** behaviors, dialogue, actions, physical appearance, motivations
- **Plot:** turning points, recurring events, significant events
- **Quotations:** important lines
- **Literary terms:** how they create meaning
- **Vocabulary:** define unfamiliar terms in the margins
- **Questions:** anything unclear or that you wonder about

Extended Analysis

Be ready to participate in class conversations and writing tasks about the questions below from the first day of school. You might wish to use post it notes, book marks, and annotations to record and organize your ideas.

- George and Lenny have a special friendship that is beneficial to each character. Companionship is essential to the human experience. George makes a difficult decision at the end of the book. Is George's decision an act of betrayal or mercy?
- Is George a true friend or a brute? Explain why or why not. Take a stance on George's final decision and use text evidence to support their claim. Evidence could include: events and descriptions that characterize both George, Lennie and their relationship, descriptions of the social climate as described in the book, punishment of undesirable behavior, and treatment of people who do not fit the norm of society.
- The Ranch can be viewed as a microcosm of society at the time of The Great Depression. Describe at least three social injustices portrayed on The Ranch. The response should do more than describe racism or sexism. Evaluate both the injustice and the way that Steinbeck portrays it. Specifically, consider how the diction, syntax, imagery, and other literary elements contribute to the message that society is unjust.