

# *English II Honors*

## Summer Reading Assignment 2026

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Your summer reading assignment is to read and annotate *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and prepare for a test on it in class when we start in August. Plan accordingly, and don't save the reading until the last minute.

You must read the book and not rely on summaries, movies, analysis videos, etc., although those things are fine to do in addition to your reading. Audiobooks are great in many ways, but *listening* is not the same cognitive activity as reading. The two actions hit your brain differently.

Your test on the book will be designed to reward you for close, careful reading.



*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck:

*Of Mice and Men* is one of the most well-known books in American literature. It tells the story of two men, George and Lennie, who travel together in search of work during the Great Depression (1930's). It's a short, memorable book. Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California, which is pretty close to us, on the coast, near Monterey, and most of his books are set in that area of California. So, in addition to being a classic American writer, Steinbeck is also a classic California author.

***Some things to know about English II Honors:*** *We do most of our work in class instead of at home. The expectation for all English II Honors students is that your writing is clear, precise, and grammatically correct. If it's not, then that will be reflected in the grading. All writing is done on paper.*