

ENGLISH III 2026 SUMMER READING: A STEINBECK SUMMER

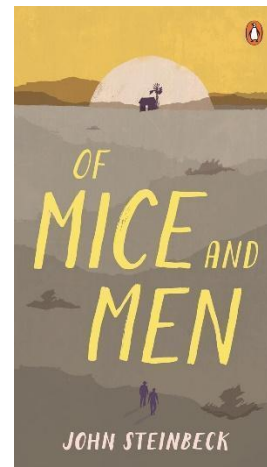
Please read these instructions carefully:

The texts assigned will need to be either a paperback or a hardback – no digital copies are allowed due to the nature of the assignment.

Over the summer, complete the following by yourself – no group work.
Everything you do for this must be **HANDWRITTEN DIRECTLY IN THE TEXT**:

BOOK ONE

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (6 Chapters: 107 Pages)



Task One: Annotations

As you read, highlight information you feel is important with a highlighter only; highlighted information should include the following:

- **5 Plot Points** → **IN YELLOW**: Any combination of the following -- Exposition, Conflict (Inciting Incident), Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution (Denouement).
- **5 Examples of Characterization** → **IN PINK**: These should be an attribute of the character that the author uses to say something about him or her.
 - What a character says or thinks
 - How a character is physically described or what he/she is wearing
 - Something the narrator says directly about the character (i.e. "He was the smartest person on the ranch").
 - The way another character reacts to a character, either physically or verbally.
 - A character's actions
- **5 Literary Elements** → **IN GREEN**: This could include a symbol, a metaphor, a simile, or personification.

After you highlight the information, you should then write a note in **PEN** along the margin; this note should explain the relevance of the highlighted material. Writing in pencil can rub off, so do not use one.

- **A note should be five or more words that offer something substantial in meaning.** You could also offer your own analysis and/or observations of the text. **DO NOT USE POST-ITS!** Avoid general statements like "This is an example of plot." You need to explain the highlighted text's relevance through analysis and explanation.

There should be **15** or more highlights once you are finished. The quality of the highlights will be assessed, so make sure to be thoughtful and selective in your work.

Task Two: Chapter Reviews

As you read, choose **three** of the chapters to write a summary about. The chapters you choose should be ones you found to be particularly interesting or moving for you.

- This summary should **discuss** why the chapter is important and note any developments in the story. Please make sure to write at least **seven** or more sentences for each of these summaries.
 - See example below.

Task Three: Final Review

At the end of the novel, write a **one-page personal reaction** to the text directly in the back of the text. This reaction should be at least fifteen sentences. Consider any of the following questions to help you guide you in what to write about:

- What did you think about the novel, and why do you think this?
- What does the novel tell us about fulfilling a dream?

You have leeway in this writing portion of the assignment, but just make sure you are addressing the text and including quotes to illustrate your points. **This should be written directly in your book at the end wherever you find blank space.**

Summary of Tasks:

- 15 highlights with accompanying annotations (1 point each)
- 3 individual chapter summaries over the chapters of your choice (2 points each)
- A one-page reaction at the end of the book (5 points)
 - TOTAL: 26 points

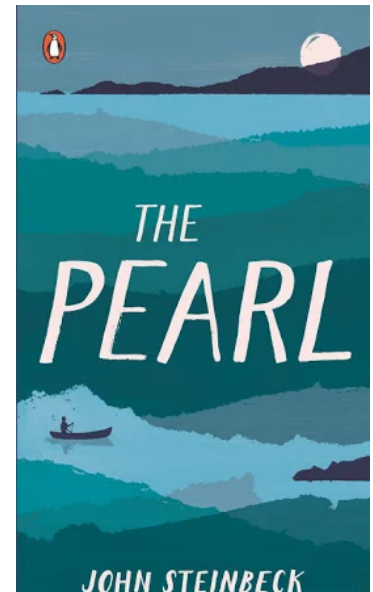
BOOK TWO

The Pearl by John Steinbeck (6 Chapters & Prologue: 90 pages)

Task One: Annotations

As you read, highlight information you feel is important with a highlighter only; highlighted information should include the following:

- **5 Plot Points → IN YELLOW:** Any combination of the following -- Exposition, Conflict (Inciting Incident), Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution (Denouement).
- **5 Examples of Characterization → IN PINK:** These should be an attribute of the character that the author uses to say something about him or her.
 - What a character says or thinks
 - How a character is physically described or what he/she is wearing
 - Something the narrator says directly about the character (i.e. "He was the smartest person on the ranch").
 - The way another character reacts to a character, either physically or verbally.
 - A character's actions
- **5 Literary Elements → IN GREEN:** This could include a symbol, a metaphor, a simile, or personification.



After you highlight the information, you should then write a note in **PEN** along the margin; this note should explain the relevance of the highlighted material. Writing in pencil can rub off, so do not use one.

- **A note should be five or more words that offer something substantial in meaning.** You could also offer your own analysis and/or observations of the text. **DO NOT USE POST-ITS!** Avoid

general statements like “This is an example of plot.” You need to explain the highlighted text’s relevance through analysis and explanation.

There should be **15** or more highlights once you are finished. The quality of the highlights will be assessed, so make sure to be thoughtful and selective in your work.

Task Two: Chapter Reviews

As you read, choose **two** of the chapters to write a summary about. The chapters you choose should be ones you found to be particularly interesting or moving for you.

- This summary should **discuss** why the chapter is important and note any developments in the story. Please make sure to write at least **seven** or more sentences for each of these summaries.
 - See example below.

Task Three: Final Review

At the end of the novel, write a **one-page personal reaction** to the text directly in the back of the text. This reaction should be at least fifteen sentences. Consider any of the following questions to help you guide you in what to write about:

- What did you think about the novel, and why do you think this?
- What does the novel tell us about fulfilling a dream?

You have leeway in this writing portion of the assignment, but just make sure you are addressing the text and including quotes to illustrate your points. **This should be written directly in your book at the end wherever you find blank space.**

Summary of Tasks for *The Pearl*:

- 15 highlights with accompanying annotations (1 point each)
- 2 individual chapter summaries over the chapters of your choice (2 points each)
- A one page reaction at the end of the book (5 points)
 - TOTAL: 24 points

The First Day Back:

- Be prepared to discuss and hand in your books upon your return. There will be a test on the second day of school.
 - The test will be multiple choice.
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NOTE: This is not an assignment you begin August 7! You should be working on this throughout the summer.

SEE EXAMPLES BELOW...

If you have any questions, contact Mr. Balistreri or Mr. Nigrin:

- jbaltistreri@stasaints.net, jnigrin@stasaints.net

Happy Reading! See you in August!

Here is a sample annotation.

anxious and slept badly, but when Mother came home the next morning, hair deranged and dark circles under her eyes, her lips were parted in a wide smile. "It was a girl," she said. Then she went to bed and slept all day.

Months passed in this way, Mother leaving the house at all hours and coming home, trembling, relieved to her core that it was over. By the time the leaves started to fall she'd helped with a dozen births. By the end of winter, several dozen. In the spring she told my father she'd had enough, that she could deliver a baby if she had to, if it was the End of the World. Now she could stop.

Dad's face sank when she said this. He reminded her that this was God's will, that it would bless our family. "You need to be a midwife," he said. "You need to deliver a baby on your own." *Use of destiny and calling.*

Mother shook her head. "I can't," she said. "Besides, who would hire me when they could hire Judy?"

She'd jinxed herself, thrown her gauntlet before God. Soon after, Maria told me her father had a new job in Wyoming. "Mom says your mother should take over," Maria said. A thrilling image took shape in my imagination, of me in Maria's role, the midwife's daughter, confident, knowledgeable. But when I turned to look at my mother standing next to me, the image turned to vapor.

Midwifery was not illegal in the state of Idaho, but it had not yet been sanctioned. If a delivery went wrong, a midwife might face charges for practicing medicine without a license; if things went very wrong, she could face criminal charges for manslaughter, even prison time. Few women would take such a risk, so midwives were scarce: on the day Judy left for Wyoming, Mother became the only midwife for a hundred miles.

Women with swollen bellies began coming to the house and begging Mother to deliver their babies. Mother crumpled at the thought. One woman sat on the edge of our faded yellow sofa, her eyes cast downward, as she explained that her husband was out of work and they didn't have money for a hospital. Mother sat quietly, eyes focused, lips tight, her whole expression momentarily solid. Then the expression dissolved and she said, in her small voice, "I'm not a midwife, just an assistant."

There is a great amount of pressure being put on her - by both her husband and the community.

grandparents' grandchildren. People have struggled to get out of Jackson for decades; now they struggle to escape Middletown.

If the problems start in Jackson, it is not entirely clear where they end. What I realized many years ago, watching that funeral procession with Mamaw, is that I am a hill person. So is much of America's white working class. And we hill people aren't doing very well.

In this chapter, we learn a good basis of JD's childhood. We know his grandparents took better care of them than his own parents. His admiration of the Blanton men show that he sought people to look up to. A lot of this chapter also addresses the living conditions for the "hillbillies" in Jackson, & how the government didn't help them.