

English 10 and 10 Honors Summer Work 2026 - 2027

This assignment is due the second day of school. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck will be our first novel of study; it's important that you are ready to discuss it. It is okay to listen to the audiobook, but you'll need to have the paper text in all our lessons.

Instructions: Closely read and annotate *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. I encourage you to make annotations on anything you find interesting, are confused about, or correlate to the discussion topics below. Close reading and insightful annotations will prepare you for class discussions set to take place from the second day of school.

Annotation Guide

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

- **Title:** *What does it symbolize? Where might it originate from?*
- **Setting:** *How does the setting reflect the time period of the Great Depression in America? How might this time period foreshadow events? How might it symbolize major themes?*
- **Character:** *What are the behaviors, dialogue, actions, physical appearance, and motivations of each character?*
- **Plot:** *What are the turning points, recurring events, and significant events?*
- **Quotations:** *Underline important lines*
- **Vocabulary:** *Define unfamiliar terms in the margins*
- **Questions:** *Mark anything unclear or that you wonder about*

Extended Analysis

Be ready to participate in class conversations and writing tasks about the questions below.

1. 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?
2. 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 your claim.

Text Evidence could include *events and descriptions that characterize both main characters 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.*

3. The Ranch can be viewed as a microcosm (miniature version) 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.

Consider how the diction, syntax, imagery, and other literary elements contribute to the message that society is unjust.