

Of Mice and Men Ch. 1-2 Journal Questions

(should be completed Oct. 9th)

Before You Begin

Be sure that you have carefully reviewed the **green-circled non-negotiable errors** from your last journal assignments. Use the "Proofreading Expectations" handout and after-school tutoring if necessary to determine your problem areas with writing; these are **errors to eliminate** in your writing as you move on in your ninth grade year.

You are also expected to have carefully read the **first two chapters** of *Of Mice and Men* before attempting any of these journal questions. By this point, you should have several quotes recorded on your Theme Log (and in your copy of the book) that are important to the theme you've chosen to track while reading. Making notes and marking important passages in your book is also a great way to become familiar with the novella.

Add **Of Mice and Men Ch. 1-2** to your journal's Table of Contents (right underneath "Once Upon a Time" Prompt); title the next page of your journal **Of Mice and Men Ch. 1-2** and begin work below.

High School Expectations

Be sure to always follow the guidelines of the **Journal Expectations**. This means that every question or prompt should be copied down, numbered, and underlined; all quotes should be inside quotation marks and highlighted; and all of your responses should be entirely of your own creation and in complete sentences. Anything falling short of those expectations will not be worth points.

While re-reading passages from *Of Mice and Men*, take the time to determine the meaning of words and phrases that might – at first – be unclear to you; use the in-class notes, dictionaries, and Mr. Benton as resources to help you analyze the text. For each response, you're expected to produce **clear and understandable writing** supported with **strong textual evidence** from the novella; also, you're expected to **proofread** your writing as you go so that it shows your command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and spelling.

Lastly, you are expected to complete about **one journal prompt every day**. This way, you'll never have to rush to meet a due date, and you'll always have time to proofread your work as you go.

Summary and Theme / Explanatory (RL.1.2, W.1.2)

Before analyzing a literary text for deeper meaning, it is very important that you have first observed the more obvious details. Review your Theme Log and the first two chapters of *Of Mice and Men* before beginning.

- Include specific textual evidence (details from the story and/or short quotations) in each of your responses.
- Your responses for #1-2 below must be at least two four-sentence paragraphs in length.

9/29 (1) Summarize the events of Chapter 1 in one paragraph. In a second paragraph, provide some details from Chapter 1 which help develop your chosen theme (broken dreams, loneliness, friendship, inequality).

9/30 (2) Summarize the events of Chapter 2 in one paragraph. In a second paragraph, provide some details from Chapter 2 which help develop your chosen theme (broken dreams, loneliness, friendship, inequality).

10/1 (proofread)

OVER →

Point of View / Narrative (RL.1.3, W.1.3)

Of Mice and Men is written in first-person, which means that the voice telling the story is not one of the characters in the story; because of this, we never get a chance to hear the thoughts and feelings of individual characters.

- In the prompts below, you will write from a specific character's perspective.
- Start each response with the word "I", speaking as if you are the fictional character in that scene.
- Don't copy the author's words; write your own, focusing on what goes on inside a particular character's mind.
- Your responses for #3-4 must be at least two four-sentence paragraphs in length.

10/2 ③ Choose a passage from Chapter 1 of the novella that demonstrates what **George** is like as a character, and write the scene from George's point of view (with "I", "me", and "my" being George, as the speaker, narrating the events of the passage).

10/3 ④ Choose a passage from Chapter 2 of the novella that demonstrated what **Lennie** is like as a character, and write the scene from Lennie's point of view (with "I", "me", and "my" being Lennie, as the speaker, narrating the events of the passage).

Consider attending after-school tutoring on Friday (1:45 - 2:15)!

Characters / Analysis (RL.1.3, W.1.2)

Aside from George and Lennie, Of Mice and Men features a cast of other complex characters with multiple and conflicting motivations; these characters' interactions advance the plot and develop the story's themes.

- For the questions below, start each response with the words "Steinbeck chose to ..."
- End each response with the a sentence which begins with "This choice by the author causes the reader to ..."
- Include specific textual evidence (details from the story and/or short quotations) in each of your responses.
- Your responses for #5-6 below must be at least two four-sentence paragraphs in length.

10/4 ⑤ Choose a character who is introduced in Chapter 2. Describe this character's appearance and personality. What are his/her motivations in the story so far? What is his/her relationship to George and Lennie?

10/5 ⑥ Choose another character who is introduced in Chapter 2. Describe this character's appearance, personality, and motivations in the story so far? What is his/her relationship to George and Lennie?

10/6 (proofread) Consider using vocabulary words in your responses for practice!

Author's Choices / Explanatory (RL.2.5, W.1.2)

John Steinbeck, as the author, has made choices concerning how to structure the novella, the order of the events in the plot, and the way time passes in Of Mice and Men; these choices are meant to affect the reader.

- For the questions below, start each response with the words "Steinbeck chose to ..."
- End each response with the a sentence which begins with "This choice by the author causes the reader to ..."
- Include specific textual evidence (details from the story and/or short quotations) in each of your responses.
- Your responses for #7-8 below must be at least two four-sentence paragraphs in length.

10/7 ⑦ Describe what Steinbeck chose to do with the first two paragraphs of Chapter 1. What effect does the imagery in this passage have on the reader's understanding of the rest of Chapter 1?

10/8 ⑧ Describe what Steinbeck chose to do with the first two paragraphs of Chapter 2. What effect does the imagery in this passage have on the reader's understanding of the rest of Chapter 2?