

of Mice and Men Men

THESIS PROMPT

Use what you have learned from reading the novella to develop a persuasive thesis statement **that identifies the importance, purpose, or significance of the thematic concept** that you have been tracking on your Theme Log for the past **two months**.



Draw on your time and experience with the novel, but **do not make a claim simply about the plot** of the novella. Your claim must be **based on the theme you have been tracking** and must make a statement **about the meaning of the novella as a whole**. Refer to the **Thesis Notes** provided in class, and make use of the resources posted on **bentonenglish.com** as you develop a worthy thesis statement.

Your thesis statement **MUST** include:

- The author (John Steinbeck) and title (Of Mice and Men, underlined).
- Your theme-based claim about the meaning of the novel as a whole
- Information from the novel that supports your claim

Your thesis statement **should NOT** include:

- “You”, “I”, “we”, or any related first/second-person pronouns
- The word “thesis”
- Informal language

Remember, your thesis statement **MUST** meet the following criteria:

- Make an assertion, not simply be obvious fact about the plot
- Take a bold stand on the novel’s meaning, not merely announce a theme
- Be a single sentence that previews what you intend to cover, not simply serve as a title
- Be narrow so that you can sufficiently support in about five paragraphs, not be too broad
- Be specifically worded so that your intended meaning is clear, avoiding any vague language
- Contain only one claim rather than two or more ideas – which would require multiple essays