

English II Pre AP

Ms. Day

Summer Reading Assignment

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

These activities must be completed on the first day of class. All activities should be done neatly and all directions should be followed. You will also have a test over this book on the first day of class. If there are any terms you do not understand in any question, look them up. If you are still having trouble understanding the question, e-mail me at bdlay@vidorisd.org. I will check my e-mail once a week. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

Activity One

Anticipation/Reaction Guide

Part I Directions: Before reading *Of Mice and Men*, in the "Before" column, respond to each statement by putting a plus sign (+) if you agree with it, a minus sign (-) if you disagree, and a question mark (?) if you are unsure of your belief.

Part II Directions: For one of the statements below, respond in an essay (400+ words, MLA format) as to why you have the belief you do. This will also be completed prior to reading the novel. This portion of the assignment must be typed and attached to the packet.

Part III Directions: After reading *Of Mice and Men*, in the "After" column, respond again to the statements. Then, respond, in an essay (400+ words, MLA format), to one of the statements that you changed your mind about. If you did not change your mind about any of them, use a different statement than you used on the first essay and discuss why you have the belief you do. Cite specific examples from the novel to support your belief. This portion of the assignment must be typed and attached to the packet.

Before

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Statement

People that are poor should rely on friends, family or church for help; not the government.

A true friend will tell the truth, even when you don't want to hear it.

The n-word is more offensive than other racial slurs because of the history of hate behind it.

Women today are more often treated by men as equals rather than objects.

When people are a victim of a crime, they should be able to take the law into their own hands.

States with the death penalty have lower murder rates.

The best place for justice to be determined is in a court of law.

Being rich is more important than having close friends.

Sometimes a person has to break the law to make sure justice is served.

Life today is more difficult than it was in the 1930's.

After

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Activity Two

Analyzing Literary Elements

Give three examples and explanations of **irony** (verbal, situational, or dramatic) that you find in the novel. Be sure your example is complete (give me the quote and explain why it is ironic) and give the page number in parentheses at the end of the quote.

1.

2.

3.

Give three examples of **symbolism** that you find in the novel. Name the idea or object and tell what it stands for. Give the page number in parentheses at the end of your example.

1.

2.

3.

Fill in the table for the following **characters**.

Character	Physical Description/Age/ Personality	Occupation/Relationship to Others
Lennie Small		
George Milton		
Candy		
Curley		
Curley's Wife		
Slim		
Carlson		
Crooks		

Fill in the blanks to complete the **plot summary**.

1. George and Lennie leave Weed because

2. Lennie likes to pet

3. They are going to work

4. George and Lennie want to buy

5. On the farm, Lennie will tend

6. George and Lennie clash with

7. Curley jealously guards

8. Slim gives Lennie

9. Carlson shoots

10. Candy offers to help pay for

11. Lennie crushes

12. Curley's wife threatens

13. Curley's wife discovers

14. Curley's wife invites Lennie to

15. Lennie breaks

16. Lennie hides

17. Lennie is tormented by

18. George steals Carlson's

19. For the last time, George tells Lennie about

20. George kills

Activity Three

Vocabulary

The following 15 words include the slang of the time and they are defined for you. The table that follows includes 25 words that you must define on your own. This portion of the assignment must be typed and attached to the packet.

1. Bindle—a bed roll and/or pack of personal belongings.
2. Jack—money.
3. Graybacks—lice.
4. Tick—mattress.
5. Buck—a man.
6. Buckler—those who move or load heavy objects.
7. Skinner—a driver of a team of animals.
8. Tart—prostitute.
9. Mules—shoes or slippers.
10. Found—free food and lodgings in addition to wages.
11. Hoosegow—jail.
12. Hame—part of the collar for a draft animal.
13. Booby hatch—insane asylum.
14. Floozy—immoral woman.
15. Snooker—a variation of pool.

Derogatory	Indignation	Dutifully	Morosely	Pugnacious
Wry	Disarming	Contorted	Mottle	Scourge
Profound	Contemptuous	Belligerent	Brusque	Crestfallen
Brindled	Earnest	Writhe	Imperious	Ominous
Scuttled	Scornfully	Console	Scudded	mollified

*To determine the correct definition to provide, find the word in the text.

Activity Four

Responding to the Novel

Choose two of the following prompts to write a full paragraph (one for each; 150-200 words) in response to the novel. Use quotes from the text to support your ideas. This portion of the assignment must be typed and attached to the packet.

1. Why do we have friends? What makes a friend?
2. How important is it for human beings to have a place where they belong and where there are people who know and love them?
3. Why do dreams sometimes fail?
4. Define euthanasia. Defend or condemn the practice and justify your belief.
5. Who is your favorite character in the book? Give valid reasons for choosing this character.

