

## Of Mice and Men -- PROJECT OPTIONS

**Directions:** Choose one of the following projects to complete. Develop your ideas thoroughly, following all requirements. Use examples, details and quotes from the book to support your ideas wherever possible. Be prepared to write a rough draft/sketch and then a final draft on good paper. Work individually; you will each turn in a final project.

### **Due Dates:**

ALL assignments are due at the *beginning* of class.

Project plan/ \_\_\_\_\_

Complete rough draft/ sketch (20 points) - \_\_\_\_\_

Final draft (attach rough draft) (70 points)- \_\_\_\_\_

\*Written projects must be typed, double-spaced (preferably) or printed neatly on theme paper.

\*Artistic projects must be drawn and colored neatly on large, unlined paper.

### PROJECT OPTIONS

1. Write **two to three** fully developed letters from any of the characters in the novel to "Dear Abby" or some other advice columnist. What problems or concerns would the characters mention? Write Abby's replies to all of the letters.
2. Pretend that you are Lennie. In Lennie's childlike manner, write his version of at least **two or three** major scenes from the novel. Try to capture Lennie's voice and personality in your writing.
3. Curley's Wife's diary has just been found. Write several entries that she may have written. Perhaps we can discover another side to her personality, or maybe a twist in the account of her marriage to Curley. Try to focus on her *inner feelings/emotions* rather than simply summarizing the events of the book. Include possible dates for each entry.

4. Write a *full-length* song or poem about the themes, ideas, plot elements, and/or characters in the novel. Present your song or poem to the class with accompanying music. This presentation may be performed live, audiotaped, or videotaped.
5. Pretend you have taken a voyage via a time machine, and you have landed in the Salinas Valley in the 1930's. Include a written description of your journey. Describe the people, the buildings, and the events you see. What happens to you while you are there? Include dialogue between you and other characters you meet.
6. From the repeated descriptions of the "dream ranch," draw and color your version of its set-up. Include a **key** or **label** each part. Somewhere on your sketch, include at least **five complete and direct quotations** from the novel that discuss the details in your drawing. Also include the page numbers for all quotes used. Use large, unlined paper for your final drawing. (You might also construct a model of the "dream ranch" if you prefer.)
7. Design an "excitement map." Choose approximately eight to ten key events from the novel. Summarize them in order, writing a paragraph for each. Then draw and color a sketch for each paragraph, and finally, rank them in terms of their level of excitement (on a scale of one to ten). Use large, unlined paper for the final draft.
8. Rewrite Chapter 6 for Of Mice and Men. Try to capture Steinbeck's writing style in your chapter. Include details and dialogue. Give the ending a different twist!
9. Write a possible "Chapter 7" for Of Mice and Men telling what happens after Slim and George walk away from the others at the end of the novel. Be sure to describe the setting and include information that will show the reader how George is reacting to the events surrounding Lennie. What thoughts/fears does George have about his future? Use dialogue between the characters where appropriate.

10. Choose several key scenes from the book to memorize, rehearse, and perform for the class. Wear costumes to fit the intended characters, and include props to set the scenes. Develop the emotions and voices appropriate to the characters being portrayed. You may present these scenes live in front of the class or create a videotape.
11. Write a book review for Of Mice and Men. Evaluate Of Mice and Men in terms of its quality. What were the novel's strengths and weaknesses? Give examples. Compare the quality of Of Mice and Men to other novels you have read. Conclude your essay with an explanation of whether or not you would recommend this book. Be sure to include reasons and supporting examples for your opinions.
12. Using a large sheet of poster board or an appropriate computer program, create a project to resemble a "front page" of a newspaper which could represent Of Mice and Men. Your front page should contain at least **four or more** of the ideas listed below:
  - a. News story- Stress the who, what, where, when and why of one of the major happenings in the novel (the death of Curley's Wife, the death of Lennie, etc...).
  - b. Feature article- Imagine that you (as a student reporter) are interviewing John Steinbeck. What questions regarding his personal and professional life might you ask him? Using factual information you have gathered from sources, answer those questions in your own words. (Attach copies of all sources used.)
  - c. Editorial- Review the positive and negative aspects of the book. What characters were well developed? What parts did you like best? What part did you like least? What other aspects should have been included in the novel?
  - d. Advertisement- Sell the book. Look at current ads in magazines and newspapers for ideas.
  - e. Comic strip- The comics should contain information about the plot and/or characters.
13. **Your own idea—see me for approval before you begin!**

## Of Mice and Men—Project Evaluation

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTENT OF PROJECT~** \_\_\_\_\_ / 40

- \*well-developed ideas
- \*consistent with literature
- \*well-organized project
- \*creative/imaginative project
- \*completely followed requirements of project
- \*overall time/effort shown in completing project (including revisions)

**EDITING OF LANGUAGE~** \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

- \*accurate spelling, punctuation, and capitalization
- \*correct usage and sentence structure
- \*dramatic projects: appropriate oral language and vocal skills

**OVERALL NEATNESS/PRESENTATION OF PROJECT~** \_\_\_\_\_ /10

- \*written projects: typed, double-spaced or printed neatly on theme paper
- \*artistic projects: neatly drawn and colored on large, unlined paper or constructed neatly
- \*dramatic projects: all visual components (props, costumes, etc...) neatly used

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_ /70

**COMMENTS~**