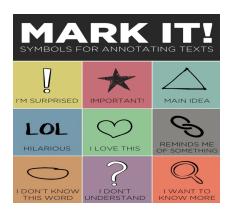
Of Mice and Men Summer Reading Assignment

- 1. Read and annotate John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men over the summer.
 - a. annotations are notes you make as you read use the chart for symbols below



- 2. Annotations will be checked on the first day back to school and **graded** post-its required. You may also annotate by hand on lined paper.
- 3. No typed annotations will be accepted, in order to maintain academic honesty.
- 4. After annotating the entire novel, consider the following questions, which will be completed in class when we return in August.
- 5. Be prepared for graded class discussions when you return to school in August.
- 6. Your answers will be submitted to turnitin.com for academic honesty.

IMPORTANT* RESEARCH AND DEFINE ANY AND ALL WORDS YOU DON'T KNOW, EITHER IN THE BOOK OR ON THIS ASSIGNMENT, TO HELP YOUR COMPREHENSION.

OF MICE AND MEN Reading Comprehension Questions

- I. Aristotle defined tragedy as a play about a basically good person, important to society, who suffers a fall brought about by something in his or her nature, provoking the emotions of pity and fear in the audience.
 - A. According to this definition, explain how *Of Mice and Men* is a tragedy.
- II. Research the Great Depression.
 - A. Identify two economic factors from the Depression Era.
 - B. Identify two social factors that impacted American citizens from that era.
 - C. Identify two political factors from American politics from the Depression Era.
 - D. How is the novel a product of the historical time period?
- III. Do you think it was a mistake that Steinbeck never gave Curley's wife a name?
 - A. Identify at least 2 reasons why Steinbeck left that character nameless.
- IV. Steinbeck has his characters use racially derogatory terms.
 - A. Why do you think he uses this language?
 - B. Are these terms necessary?
 - C. Can you find evidence to suggest that Steinbeck shares his characters' prejudiced views of minorities?
- V. Loneliness is a major theme in the novel. It is expressed in many of the things that the characters say and do.
 - A. How is loneliness a part of the lives of the following characters? Explain
 - 1. Crooks
 - 2. Candy
 - 3. Lennie
 - 4. George
 - 5. Curley's wife
- VI. The literary device of foreshadowing, or giving clues in advance of an important event, is used often throughout this novel.
 - A. Identify 3 moments of foreshadow from the novel, and include page numbers.
- VII. Research *Of Mice and Men* author John Steinbeck.
 - A. Identify 5 interesting or influential points from Steinbeck's life. DO NOT INCLUDE BIRTHDATE/PLACE, OR DATE OF DEATH.