

*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.

