



Rainford High School English Department – Year 9 Of Mice and Men Knowledge Organiser

Steinbeck	Characters	Key terminology
<p>John Steinbeck was an American author, who lived between 1902 and 1968.</p> <p>He was a Nobel Prize winner for Literature. Many of his 27 books (including 16 novels) have been considered as classics of Western literature. His works frequently explore the themes of fate and injustice, as experienced by everyman characters. Many take place in the Salinas Valley of California</p>	<p>George: A loyal and caring friend to Lennie Lennie: A kind and simple character who is unaware of his own strength Curley: The Boss' son and a bully to others (including his wife) Curley's Wife: The only female on the ranch who is very lonely and yearns for company Slim: An influential character who other characters look up to Candy: An old worker who only has one hand Crooks: Lives in the stable with animals and the only black person on the ranch</p>	<p>Animalistic imagery – describing other objects using features of animals Cyclical structure – when a text begins and ends in the same place Foreshadowing – when a writer gives the reader clues about what might happen later in the text Metaphor – a direct comparison of two objects or ideas Personification – giving human features to non-human objects Setting – where a text takes place Simile – an indirect comparison of two objects or ideas</p>
Key Contexts	Key Themes	Narrative
<p>Racism: In the 1930s, there were no laws ruling against racial discrimination. White and black people were segregated at the time, and the lynching of black people was common, sometimes for the most petty or unproven of crimes. The Jim Crow laws of post-1876 strongly reinforced racism.</p> <p>The American Dream: Is a belief that freedoms, prosperity, success, and social mobility, can all be achieved through hard work. It implies that society has few barriers preventing anyone from achieving their dreams, should they be willing to put in enough effort.</p> <p>The Wall Street Crash and The Great Depression: In the 1920s, the USA had been an enormously prosperous nation but millions of dollars were wiped out in an event that became known as the Wall Street Crash. This triggered the Great Depression where 15 million people became unemployed and lost their life savings. With no social support system, many families were left to face poverty.</p>	<p>Dreams: Each character in the text has their own dreams that they live and work for. None of the characters make their dream, showing the impossibility of the American Dream.</p> <p>Loneliness: All of the characters, in some sense, experience feelings of loneliness and isolation.</p> <p>Inequality: Of Mice and Men was set in a time in which the laws favoured white people, and men held far more rights than women.</p> <p>Animals and Nature: Steinbeck makes frequent references to animals and nature, both literally and figuratively. He also compares characters to animals, for example Lennie is compared to a bear, whilst Curley is compared to both a fish and a frog.</p> <p>Power: All characters possess different types of power including knowledge, intelligence and physical power.</p>	<p>Chapter 1: George and Lennie travel to a ranch where they are intending to work. They rest in a clearing and arrive at the ranch the following morning.</p> <p>Chapter 2: George and Lennie meet the boss of the ranch who is suspicious of them but gives them a job nevertheless.</p> <p>Chapter 3: George confides in Slim about his past. Candy overhears George and Lennie discussing their American Dream. A fight breaks out on the ranch.</p> <p>Chapter 4: Candy and Lennie speak to Crooks whilst the other workers go into town.</p> <p>Chapter 5: Lennie speaks to Curley's Wife in the barn whilst the other men are outside.</p> <p>Chapter 6: Lennie leaves the ranch and George eventually finds him in the brush (where they slept at the beginning of the story)</p>



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