

Of Mice and Men

Reading Notes: Chapter One

VOCABULARY

Define the following words:

1. Derision
2. Receptive
3. Reprehensible
4. Reverence

ALLUSIONS AND HISTORICAL REFERENCES

Describe each of the following by doing personal research on the computer (hint: the story takes place during the 1930s):

5. Luger

LITERARY TERMS

Define each of the following literary terms:

6. Theme
7. Personification
8. Imagery
9. Foreshadow
10. Conflict

While reading *Of Mice and Men*, you will pause to make some observations. These observations are intended to improve your ability to see and interpret key ideas and events in the story. Responses to each question should be thorough, not just a few words or single sentence. Use complete sentences with correct capitalization and end marks.

11. *Connect/Characterize*: Everyone respects Slim, especially Candy (p. 45) for whom “Slim’s opinions were law.” Write down a few reasons why people respect someone. Who is someone you respect, someone whose opinions are law? Explain why everyone respects Slim and how Slim is similar to or different from this person you respect so much.

12. *Infer*: Steinbeck includes a lot of animals in the story, including mice, rabbits, and dogs. Think about these animals and their relationship to the humans. What do you think Steinbeck is trying to say by using these animals? Why do you think that? Provide evidence to support your argument.

13. *Mood*: In Chapter 3, Steinbeck refers to “silence” repeatedly. What is the cause and meaning of the silence? Note that he personifies silence. Find some examples in which he personifies silence and explain how this technique affects the mood.

14. *Climax*: Which event in Chapter Three seems like it will be the climax of the story? Explain why you think that.

15. *Theme*: Lennie speaks eagerly and repeatedly about “live on the fatta the lan” (which means “live on the fat of the land”) when he thinks about the farm he and George will own one day. What does this place represent for George and Lennie? Explain why you think this, using examples and quotations to support your thinking.

16. *Connect*: Describe a place you already know or wish you had where you could escape all the troubles of the world. Be very specific in your details. Paint this place with words!

17. *Respond*: John Steinbeck said, “In every bit of honest writing in the world there is a base theme: Try to understand men; if you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing a man well never leads to hate and nearly always leads to love.” Explain what you think this quotation means and how it relates to the novel and your own experience.

18. *Predict*: You are roughly halfway through the novel. Based on what you know at this point, what do you think will happen in the remainder of the story? What do you base your prediction on?