

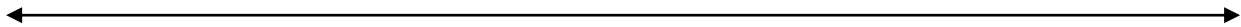
English 10 - Summer Reading Guide

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Over the course of the summer, all sophomore English students will read *Of Mice and Men*, by Steinbeck. *Of Mice and Men* explores the powerful friendship between George, a dedicated and determined farm hand, and Lennie, his cognitively disabled friend and dependent, as both move from job to job, ranch to ranch, hoping to scratch out a living and build the funds necessary to pursue their dreams in 1920s California.

While completing and after completing their summer reading, students should consider the following questions to help shape their understanding of this text and to prepare for class discussion. In addition to considering these thematic questions, students should have a thorough and detailed understanding of both texts' characters, settings, and plot events.

1. How does setting both transition us into and out of the novel's plot?
2. Why does George feel responsible for Lennie?
3. How do George's individual desires conflict with the sense of responsibility that he feels for Lennie?
4. How is work and one's skill as a worker important to his value in the bunkhouse?
5. How are Lennie, Crooks, and Candy similar?
6. Why is Curley's wife an unnamed character?
7. Is George's decision at the end of the novel a just and noble action?



Additionally, each grade 10 student should read one book of his choice and be prepared to write and speak about this text during the first few days of school. This text may be either fiction or non-fiction. It should be a text he is reading for the first time.