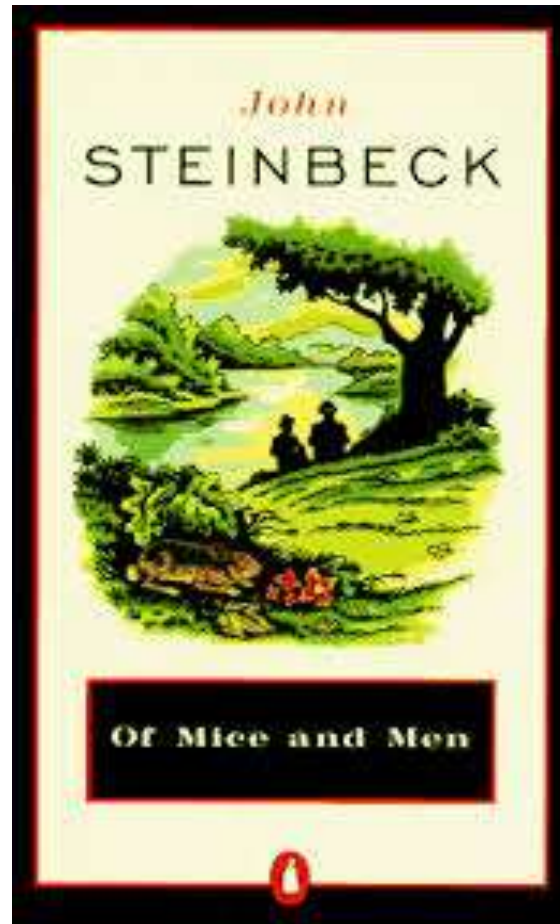




Edinburg High School Summer Reading
Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement
English 2017-2018



English II Pre-AP



Of Mice and Men
By John Steinbeck

Advanced Academics & Guidance Services
EDINBURG CISD



Edinburg High School Summer Reading Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



About the Author: John Steinbeck (1902-1968)

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California. His native region of Monterey Bay was later the setting for most of his fiction. Steinbeck's father was a county treasurer. From his mother, a teacher, Steinbeck learned to love books. Among his early favorites were Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and *Le Morte d'Arthur*, a compilation by Sir Thomas Malory.

Steinbeck attended the local high school and worked on farms and ranches during his vacations. Between 1920 and 1926, he studied marine biology at Stanford University but did not obtain a degree in that field. He always planned to be a writer. Several of his early poems and short stories appeared in university publications. After spending a short time as a laborer and reporter in New York City for the *American*, Steinbeck returned to California. While writing, Steinbeck took odd jobs. He was an apprentice painter, caretaker of an estate, surveyor, and fruit-picker. In 1950 Steinbeck married Elaine Scott. His son John was hospitalized for a codeine addiction at age seven, and he also had many problems in later years with drugs and alcohol. In *The Other Side of Eden*, John Steinbeck IV wrote about his famous father:

“Artists by nature are not particularly gifted as parents. They can be very self-centered, very abusive, and dysfunctional when it comes to raising children. So the kid has to raise himself. Dad never had to be a parent except on his time and on his terms, and then he was very good at that, very good. Very Huck Finny. Had he had to do it day in, day out, he would have failed miserably.”

In later years, Steinbeck did much special reporting abroad, dividing his time between New York and California. He went to Vietnam to report on the war, and the *New York Post* attacked him for betraying his liberal past. Steinbeck died of a heart attack in New York on December 20, 1968.

OF MICE AND MEN (1937), a story of shattered dreams, became Steinbeck's first big success. Steinbeck adapted it also into a three-act play, which was produced in 1937.

George Milton and Lennie Small, two traveling ranch hands, dream of one day owning their own small farm. George acts as a father figure to Lennie, who is large and simple-minded. Lennie loves all that is soft, but his immense physical strength is a source of troubles and George is needed to calm him. The two friends find work on a farm and start saving money for their future, but trouble arises that may prevent the two men from achieving their dream.



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Essay

While no essay will be assigned over the summer break, each of you must read the novella in its entirety as you will be expected to write an essay in class on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH**. Prepare accordingly.

Reading Guide

It is imperative that each of you complete the guide **WHILE** you are reading; it will assist you in understanding the complexities of Steinbeck's work. You are expected to answer in grammatically correct, complete sentences. The reading guide is due **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH**.



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Assignments

READ ALL OF THE DIRECTIONS.

Work must be neat and legible or points will be deducted.

Step 1: Read the novella.

Step 2: Complete the **CHARACTER CHART**.

Step 3: Complete the attached Project Sheet according to the directions below.

- A.** Choose **THREE** of the characters from the completed **CHARACTER CHART** and complete a **PROJECT SHEET** for each character.
- B.** For each character, choose **ONE** of each of the motifs listed below that you feel is best expressed through that character. Select a **DIFFERENT** motif for each character (**EACH ONE SHOULD BE USED ONCE**).

MOTIFS: Loneliness & Isolation, Hopes & Dreams, Violence

- C.** Create a **SYMBOL** (drawings, graphics, photos, etc.) that you feel strongly represents each character you have chosen.
- D.** Include a **QUOTE** (with a page number) that relates to your **SYMBOL** and include an explanation of how the object you chose represents the character and relates to the motif you selected.
- E.** For each character, choose **TWO** additional quotes from **TWO** different chapters that relate to the character and motif you have chosen; then, write a brief explanation of each quote and how it conveys the selected motif. These last two quotes do not have to relate to your symbol.



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CHARACTER CHART

Character	Physical Description AND Personality Traits (THREE bullet points minimum)	What is the <u>significance</u> of his/her role in the novel?	Plot Events (Include page # with your answer)
Lennie Small			Who / what does Lennie kill throughout the novel?
Candy			What happens to Candy's dog? (Be specific.)
Curley			What happens to Curley's hand?
Curley's wife			What is Curley's wife's shattered dream?
Slim			What does Slim give to Lennie?
Carlson			Who / what does Carlson kill?
Crooks			Why doesn't Crooks sleep in the bunkhouse with the other men?



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PROJECT SHEET

(A) Motif: *Loneliness & Isolation*
 (B) Character: _____
 (C) Symbol: _____

ILLUSTRATION

(E) Quote:																				



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PROJECT SHEET

(A) Motif: *Hopes & Dreams*

(B) Character: _____

(C) Symbol: _____

ILLUSTRATION

(E) Quote:																					
			Explanation:																		
								Quote:													
													Explanation:								

			(D) Quote:				
				Explanation:			



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PROJECT SHEET

(A) Motif: *Violence*

(B) Character: _____

(C) Symbol: _____

ILLUSTRATION

(E) Quote:																				

(D) Quote:																				



Edinburg High School Summer Reading Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



Dear Parents of English Pre-AP and AP Students:

As we end the school year, the English teachers at Edinburg High School would like to let you know that we have your child's education in mind when we make decisions about summer reading assignments. In order to adequately prepare for AP English exams and to develop your child's reading and thinking skills within a limited number of months, we require all English I Pre-AP, English II Pre-AP, English III Pre-AP/AP, English IV Honors/AP, and English V Humanities students to read assigned novels during the summer months. Students will be assessed over the summer reading through tests, essays, and class activities during the first week of school. Your child will need to acquire the necessary novel and read it during the summer. We have notified Barnes & Noble bookstores on North 10th Street in McAllen, so there should be sufficient copies if you choose to purchase them there. Please feel free to call your child's current English teacher or counselor if you have any questions as to which novel your son/daughter should read this summer.

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to read the assigned novel will adversely affect your child's grade.

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The English II summer reading assignment is due Friday, September 8, 2017.

**The English II summer reading essay will be written in class on Friday,
September 8, 2017.**

Thank you,

Edinburg High School English II Teachers



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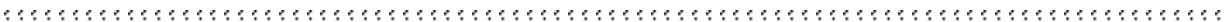
Student/ Parent (Guardian) Agreement

STUDENT

By signing below, I guarantee that I fully understand my responsibilities for summer reading and related assignments. I also guarantee to submit my work by the first day of the second week after the school year begins.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____



PARENT

By signing below, I indicate awareness and understanding of my child's responsibilities for summer reading. I also support my child's efforts to fulfill his/ her classroom expectations to submit the summer reading assignments by their due date. Because your child is too advanced academically to continue to read books within the genre of young adult fiction, the novels chosen for summer reading were written for a mature audience. These selections, sanctioned by AP College Board, represent selections deemed to be books of literary merit.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____