

Honors English III Summer Reading Assignment

This summer, you will read John Steinbeck's seminal novel *Of Mice and Men*. Published in 1937 and set during The Great Depression, the novel discusses the American Dream through the journey of protagonists George and Lennie and their desires for freedom.

Your assignments are divided into three parts and must be completed before the first day of class.

Part One: Annotation

As you read, annotate. Use the attached resource to guide you on annotation best practices.

Part Two: Character Tracker

On paper, make a chart to track the development of one character from this list: Lennie Small, George Milton, Candy, Curly, Curly's wife, Crooks. Include their dream/desire, their obstacles preventing their dreams/desires, and what happens to this character in the end.

Part Three: Primary Resources

Based on your tracked character, research and select one primary source (e.g.: photographs, letters, diaries) from this era that informs some of the issues in the novel, such as, but not limited to: the rights of the disabled, women's rights, rights of African Americans, migrant workers, The Great Depression, or The Dust Bowl.

You will use this primary source in a project during the semester.

The Notice and Note Signposts

Signpost	The Clues to the Signpost	Anchor Question
Contrasts and Contradictions (C&C) A sharp contrast between what you would expect and what you observe the character doing; behavior that contradicts previous behavior or well-established patterns	A character behaves or thinks in a way you don't expect, or an element of a setting is something you would not expect	Why would the character act (feel) this way?
Aha Moment (AM) A character's realization of something that shifts his actions or understanding of himself, others, or the world around him.	Phrases, usually expressing suddenness, like: "Suddenly I understood..." "It came to me in a flash that..." "The realization hit me like a lightning bolt..." "In an instant I knew..."	How might this change things?
Tough Questions (TQ) Questions a character raises that reveal his or her inner struggles	Phrases expressing serious doubt or confusion: "What could I possibly do to ...?" "I couldn't imagine how I could cope with ..." "How could I ever understand why she...?" "Never had I been so confused about..."	What does this question make me wonder about?
Words of the Wiser (WW) The advice or insight a wiser character, who is usually older, offers about life to the main character	The main character and another are usually off by themselves, in a quiet, serious moment. And this wiser figure shares his wisdom or advice in an effort to help the main character with a problem or a decision.	What's the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?
Again and Again (A&A) Events, images, or particular words that recur over a portion of the novel	A word is repeated, sometimes used in an odd way, over and over in the story. An image reappears several times during the course of the book.	Why might the author bring this up again and again?
Memory Moment (MM) A recollection by a character that interrupts the forward progress of the story (flashback)	The ongoing flow of the narrative is interrupted by a memory that comes to the character, often taking several paragraphs to recount before you are returned to events of the present moment.	Why might this memory be important?

How the Signposts Will Help You Analyze Literature

Signposts	Anchor Question	Why We Ask This Question
Contrasts and Contradictions (C&C)	Why would the character act (feel) this way?	Contrasts and Contradictions show you other aspects of a character or setting. The question helps you analyze the character, motivation, or the situation he is in.
Aha Moment (AM)	How might this change things?	An Aha Moment reveals change. This question focuses on that change – for the character or the setting.
Tough Questions (TQ)	What does this question make me wonder about?	Tough Questions almost always reveal internal conflict, and understanding that conflict generally offers insight into the theme. These big issues that shape the tough questions are the issues you want to think about. By asking yourself this anchor question, you are making a connection between the author's thinking and your own thoughts.
Words of the Wiser (WW)	What's the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?	Words of the Wiser suggests the theme. This question helps you to think about this theme in the context of the character's life. The next step would be to think about the theme in the context of your own life.
Again and Again (A&A)	Why might the author bring this up again and again?	Recurring images, events, or words offer insight into character motivation or theme. This question encourages you to speculate on this insight.
Memory Moment (MM)	Why might this memory be important?	Memories generally explain character motivation. They might explain why a character acts a certain way, or they might serve as guidance for a situation that a character eventually finds herself in. This question asks you to consider the relationship between the memory and the character or plot.