Honors English 1

Mrs. Leatherwood

Independent Novel Assignment #1

***Of Mice and Men*** by John Steinbeck

*Make sure to answer each part of the question and support each answer with specific information from the text.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chapters 1-3  (Due 9/11A  9/12 B) | Describe the relationship between Lennie and George. In your response, explain how the author conveys information about their relationship and what it shows about each character. Use specific examples to defend your answer.  Conflict is starting to arise for George and Lennie. Explain potential conflicts you see arising based on what the reader knows so far. In addition, explain why you feel these conflicts might occur. Use specific information to support your ideas.  Discuss the scene where Slim is talking about his puppies. What does this scene show about Slim’s perspective on society? (You will need to think symbolically here). In addition, think about Carlson’s request and relate this to his perspective on society. Use specific information from the text to explain your answer.  The idea of loneliness is brought up frequently in this section. Analyze contrast between loneliness and companionship in the story. In your response, discuss the importance of this idea and relate it to the theme of the story. |
| Chapter 4  (Due 9/17 A 9/18 B) | In this section stereotypes are discussed. Analyze the stereotypes discussed about migrant workers, minorities, women, and individuals with cognitive disabilities in this section. In your response, tell what stereotypes are used, how they affect the characters, and how they shape society/the time period in general. Use specific examples from the text to support your answer. |
| Chapters 5-6  (Due 9/25 A  9/26 B) | In this section the idea of dreams is discussed at length. Explain the various  perspectives on dreams and how that is significant to the message of the story as a whole. Make sure to look at hopefulness toward dreams, regret at not fulfilling dreams, and doubt that dreams can ever come true. In your response, discuss how the different characters embody these ideas. In addition, analyze the purpose of the contrast.  Steinbeck uses parallels and contrasts throughout the story to enhance his point. Explain the parallels between the following events. Also explain the purpose.  Parallels:  a. The dream of the ranch and Curley’s wife’s dream.  b. The death of Candy’s dog and the death of Lennie.  c. The beginning of the first chapter and the beginning of the last chapter.  Contrasts:  a. George and Lennie’s physical and mental capabilities.  b. Curley and Lennie’s attitudes and personalities.  c. Slim and Candy’s roles and status at the ranch. |
| Final Questions  (Due 9/29 A 9/30 B ) | 1. Research the Great Depression: What was happening in the country at that time economically, socially, and politically? How is the novel a product of its historical context?  2. Aristotle defined tragedy as a play about a basically good person, important to society, who suffers a fall brought about by something in his or her nature, provoking the emotions of pity and fear in the audience.   * + Based on the above definition, show how the novel *Of Mice and Men* is a tragedy.   + Based on this definition show how it is not a tragedy.   3. **A Dream Deferred**—Langston Hughes  What happens to a dream deferred?  **Does it dry up**  **like a raisin in the sun?**  **Or fester like a sore--**  **And then run?**  **Does it stink like rotten meat?**  **Or crust and sugar over--**  **like a syrupy sweet?**  **Maybe it just sags**  **like a heavy load.**  **Or does it explode?**  1. After reading Of Mice and Men reread the poem. On the right-hand side of the poem, write how each stanza connects with Of Mice and Men. Use specific examples from the story to make your point. (You may wish to go back and reference your original interpretation.)  2. Label the overall tone of the poem. Explain and defend your choice of tone word. |