

Year 8- Phase 2

Finish reading '*Of Mice and Men*'.

If you do not have a copy of the text, the full text is available online.

<https://www.nhc.ac.uk/media/2840/steinbeck-john-of-mice-and-men.pdf>

1) 'The Underdog'

- What is an Underdog? Write your definition.
- Which characters are Underdogs and why?

E.g.- Curley's wife is an underdog, as she is a woman and has little status on the ranch. One of the ways which Steinbeck shows this is by not giving Curley's wife a name, she simply belongs to Curley.

Challenge: Why do you think that Steinbeck has portrayed so many characters as 'Underdogs'? What might he be saying about American society and The American Dream?

Write a paragraph to explain your response and use evidence from the text to support this.

Writing Task

Write a short letter to Slim to persuade him to save the pups.

You need 2-3 reasons why the pups can be useful to society

You need 3 persuasive techniques

A range of sentence structures

Powerful vocabulary

2) 'Foreboding'

- Write down this definition.

Foreboding

noun:

a feeling that something bad will happen; fearful apprehension.

2. adjective:

implying that something bad is going to happen

- Read the beginning of section three and pick out evidence to show how Steinbeck creates a foreboding atmosphere in this chapter.

Although there was evening brightness showing through the windows of the bunk house, inside it was dusk. Through the open door came the thuds and occasional clangs of a horseshoe game, and now and then the sound of voices raised in disapproval or derision.

Slim and George came into the darkening bunk house together. Slim reached up over the card table and turned on the tin-shaded electric light. Instantly the table was brilliant with light, and the cone of the shade threw its brightness straight downward, leaving the corners of the bunk house still dusk. Slim sat down on a box and George took his place opposite.

Respond to this question in two PEE paragraphs

- How does Steinbeck create a foreboding atmosphere at the beginning of Section 3?

3) 'Violence- Curley and Lennie's Fight' (Pages 92-94)

- **Answer the following questions.**

Explain why you think Curley chooses to attack Lennie rather than anyone else?

What makes Lennie react and break Curley's hand?

Why do you think Slim makes up the story about Curley's hand being crushed in a machine?

Challenge: What is so important about the timing of this incident? Why does Steinbeck structure the story in this way?

Writing Activity

- Write a diary entry from Slim's perspective about the fight.

4) 'Crooks'

- Research the 'Civil Rights Movement' in the USA and **create a timeline of key events.** What were 'Jim Crow' laws?

- **Answer the following questions.**

Why is Crooks discriminated against?

What do Crooks and Lennie have in common?

Why do you think that Crooks is lonely?

- What does the reader learn about Crooks from his living conditions and his possessions?

Find examples from the text to support your points.

How does Steinbeck use Crooks character to show the treatment of African Americans in 1930's America?

Write 2 PEE's to respond.

Challenge: Do some research on groups in America today which fight for African American equal rights.

In your opinion, do you think that African Americans have equal rights in the USA today? Explain your response.