



OF MICE AND MEN

Reading Packet

Name

Block

Of Mice and Men: Chapter 1 (p. 1-16)

Pre-reading: What do you know about the Great Depression in the United States?

During Reading:

Using your post-it flags, mark places in your book that describe Lennie and George. Keep in mind that we can find out about characters through their **names, physical description, actions/reactions, thoughts, and dialogue**. We can find things out **directly** (Steinbeck tells us) or **indirectly** (we must infer).

Jot down five words that describe Lennie and five words that describe George.

Lennie	George
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Post-Reading:

Which of the words above *best* describes Lennie? Why?

Which of the words above *best* describes George? Why?

Complete the following sentence: The relationship between George and Lennie is like... After you complete the sentence, explain why their relationship is like this and provide examples to support your idea.

Speculate about what happened in Weed that caused them to leave. Predict what you think will happen in this story based on what happened before. What details do you base your prediction on?

Of Mice and Men: Chapter 2 (p. 17-37)

Pre-Reading:

List three qualities of a good friend. A good friend is _____, _____, and _____.

During Reading:

As you read flag moments revealing the *relationship* between George and Lennie.

Jot down five things you notice about their relationship.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Post-Reading:

Look at the qualities you used to describe a good friend. Do these apply to George and Lennie? Why or why not? Use details from the text to support your response.

Describe Curley's wife by focusing on her relationship with Curley and the men.

How might you compare the relationship between Lennie and George with Candy and his old dog?

How does the mood change in this chapter? Generate several words to describe the mood in the story in the beginning and at the end of the chapter. What *causes* that change?

Of Mice and Men: Chapter 3 (p. 38-65)

Pre-Reading: List five *key details* that provide background to the character and the plot up to this point. Explain why each detail is so important to the story.

Detail	Explanation
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

During Reading:

As you read flag moments that increase the *tension* in the story. Look for places of conflict and/or foreshadowing.

How do these moments affect the plot?

Post-Reading:

Everyone respects Slim, especially Candy (p. 45) for whom “Slim’s opinions were law.” Write down a few reasons why people respect someone. Explain why everyone respects Slim and how Slim is similar to or different from a person you respect.

John Steinbeck said, “In every bit of honest writing in the world there is a base theme: Try to understand men; if you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing a man well never leads to hate and nearly always leads to love.” Explain what you think this quote means and how it relates to the novel and your own experience.

You are roughly halfway through the novel. Based on what you know at this point, what do you think will happen in the remainder of the story? What do you base your prediction on?
