

Summer Reading Assignment 8th grade Honors' English

Welcome to 8th grade Honors' English! In this class, we will emphasize not just reading the assigned material, but thinking independently about the author's message. We will examine how the author conveys his or her message through plot elements, character descriptions, and other aspects of their work.

For your summer assignment, you are going to read *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. You will need to obtain your own copy of this book, and will need to bring it with you to class.

While reading, you will complete the Active Reading Log. Be sure to answer each section completely, using your own words to convey your own thoughts. For each chapter, you need to fill out the following areas:

Major Plot Points - what things happen in this chapter? How do these events relate to the overall story? Why are these events in the grand scheme of the book?

New Characters/development - What new characters are you introduced to? What new information do you find out about characters you met previously?

Questions/Predictions - Part of being a good reader means reading actively. This means that as you read, you should question the material. Why is Steinbeck telling you something? What will this mean later on? You should also be able to predict things that will happen next. And, in later chapters, you should be able to tie information into things that you were told earlier on. (example: Oh, so that's why Steinbeck told us that in chapter 2!)

You also need to complete the Character Information Sheet after reading. Be sure to complete each section completely, using your own words to convey your own thoughts. ***You should use information from throughout the entire book, not just one part.*** You will need to address each of the following areas for each character:

Physical Description - what does this person actually look like? What type of clothes does this person wear? Does this person have any remarkable characteristics?

Work Ethic - Nearly all of the characters in this book are working as farmhands. How hard do they work? What is their motivation for having or keeping this job? How do they feel about the job that they do?

Personality - Based on ALL the information that Steinbeck tells you about this person throughout the book, what is this person like? How does this person treat other people? Why does he/she act the way they do?

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Once you have finished reading the book and completing your charts, you will write an **essay** answering the following prompt:

Discuss three ways that the overall theme of loneliness is evident in the book *Of Mice and Men*.

- An essay should be at least 5 complete paragraphs.
- You need to use **specific examples** from the book to prove that your main point is true.
- Pay attention to grammar, spelling, and sentence structure.

This essay will be worth 100 points, and should reflect your best academic writing!

Your summer assignment will be due on the second day of class.

You **MAY NOT TURN IT IN LATE** for any reason. You will be taking a test over the book on the third day of class, and we will continue to work with it for the first few weeks. Please be aware that if you do not complete your summer assignment, you will most likely fail the first nine weeks.

To Recap:

1. Obtain a copy of *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.
2. Actively read it.
3. Complete your Active Reading Log as you read. (50 points)
4. Complete your Character Information Sheet after you read. (50 points)
5. Write an essay proving that loneliness is one of the main themes in *Of Mice and Men*. (100 points)
5. Have everything ready to turn in on the **second day** of class. **(It CANNOT be late!)**
6. Be ready for a test on the **third day** of class. (100 points)

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pancost
KPancost@vermilionschools.org

Information will also be available in Google Classroom. Join the class using this code: fgsufai

I look forward to seeing all of you next year!