

## English 2 Honors Summer Assignment 2022

Your summer assignment is to read John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, and complete the following prompts. You should also read three out of the five supplemental pieces and complete the chart below. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Talarico @ [ctalarico@bhpsnj.org](mailto:ctalarico@bhpsnj.org) or Ms. Toporek @ [stoporek@bhpsnj.org](mailto:stoporek@bhpsnj.org) prior to the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Students are responsible for obtaining the book. If this is a problem, please email Ms. Scott at [lscott@bhpsnj.org](mailto:lscott@bhpsnj.org), prior to June 14th, and she will arrange for you to borrow a copy.

### Chapter 1

1. In a short paragraph, identify the chapter's most important events, from George's perspective.
2. Choose three symbols from this chapter, and interpret their significance in the text.

### Chapter 2

1. In a short paragraph, identify the chapter's most important events, from Candy's perspective (for much of the chapter, Candy is referred to as "the old man").
2. The characterization in this novel comes largely from contrast between the individuals in the story. Think about the following contrasts, describe the character(s) to best exemplify each, and explain who (in each pair) is in the stronger position.
  - having black or white skin
  - being male or female
  - being a big person or a smaller person
  - having a great deal of physical strength or mental strength

### Chapter 3

1. In a short paragraph, identify the chapter's most important events, from Carlson's OR Curley's perspective.
2. Write down a list of the characters on the farm. Explain (you may create a graphic organizer to do so) the hierarchy of the farm, justifying where each individual belongs.

### Chapter 4

1. In a short paragraph, identify the chapter's most important events, from Crooks' OR Curley's wife's perspective.
2. Do a little outside research about the rights of women and black Americans in the 1930s. In list form, indicate the injustices and lack of opportunity they struggled against.

### Chapter 5

1. In a short paragraph, identify the chapter's most important events, from Lennie's perspective.
2. Conclude: What does Lennie deserve as punishment for his actions? Why is that punishment justified?

### Chapter 6

1. In a short paragraph, identify the chapter's most important events, from Slim's perspective.
2. What motivated George's action? Consider all the factors that affected his decision.

Supplemental Reading: Choose 3 out of the 5 listed here to read, and complete the chart below. You should be able to find the articles by searching the title or by copying and pasting the link.

“Five Types of Ecological Relationships”, *Seattle Pi*

<https://education.seattlepi.com/five-types-ecological-relationships-4019.html>

“Social Class as Culture”, *APS (Association for Psychological Science)*

<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/releases/social-class-as-culture.html>

“Social Darwinism Isn’t Dead”, *Slate*

<https://slate.com/technology/2014/01/social-darwinism-and-class-essentialism-the-rich-think-they-are-superior.html>

“Revealing Discrimination: Social Hierarchy and the Exclusion/Enslavement of the Other in the *Harry Potter* Novels”, *The Looking Glass: New Perspectives on Children’s Literature*

<https://ojs.latrobe.edu.au/ojs/index.php/tlg/article/view/162> (click the HTML link to view the article)

“The Taint of Social Darwinism”, *The New York Times*

<https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/08/the-taint-of-social-darwinism/>

TITLE OF ARTICLE	AUTHOR’S MAIN CLAIMS (PRIMARY ARGUMENT)	CONNECTIONS TO <i>OF MICE AND MEN</i>

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Reading some of the following texts, in addition to *Of Mice and Men* would be beneficial.

*Are We There Yet?* by David Levithan Sixteen-year-old Elijah is completely mellow and his 23-year-old brother Danny is completely not, so it's no wonder they can barely tolerate one another. So what better way to repair their broken relationship than to trick them into taking a trip to Italy together? Soon, though, their parents' perfect solution has become Danny and Elijah's nightmare as they're forced to spend countless hours *together* (<https://www.amazon.com/Are-There-Yet-David-Levithan/dp/0375839569>.)

*The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver "Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots. ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30868.The\\_Bean\\_Trees](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30868.The_Bean_Trees).)

*Forgotten Fire* by Adam Bagdasarian "In 1915 Vahan Kenderian is living a life of privilege as the youngest son of a wealthy Armenian family in Turkey. This secure world is shattered when some family members are whisked away while others are murdered before his eyes." (<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/forgotten-fire-adam-bagdasarian/1102301657>.)

*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer "A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster." ([https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1898.Into\\_Thin\\_Air](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1898.Into_Thin_Air).)

*The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris. "Twenty-six-year-old editorial assistant Nella Rogers is tired of being the only Black employee at Wagner Books. Fed up with the isolation and microaggressions, she's thrilled when Harlem-born and bred Hazel starts working in the cubicle beside hers. They've only just started comparing natural hair care regimens, though, when a string of uncomfortable events elevates Hazel to Office Darling, and Nella is left in the dust. Then the notes begin to appear on Nella's desk: LEAVE WAGNER. NOW." (<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/55711688-the-other-black-girl>)

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See "In nineteenth-century China, when wives and daughters were foot-bound and lived in almost total seclusion, the women in one remote Hunan county developed their own secret code for communication: nu shu ("women's writing"). Some girls were paired with laotongs, "old sames," in emotional matches that lasted throughout their lives. They painted letters on fans, embroidered

messages on handkerchiefs, and composed stories, thereby reaching out of their isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments.”

(<https://www.amazon.com/Snow-Flower-Secret-Fan-Novel/dp/0812980352>.)

*13 Little Blue Envelopes* by Maureen Johnson “Aunt Peg was full of wonder, and 17-year-old Ginny always felt more interesting around her. When Ginny receives a letter from Aunt Peg containing \$1,000 and instructions for a mysterious journey, she is propelled into a series of experiences that will change her life. She receives a package containing 13 little blue envelopes, to be opened one at a time and only when she’s completed the task in each letter. She goes to London, Scotland, Italy, Rome, Paris and elsewhere, ultimately realizing that she can be interesting by herself; she doesn’t have to be with Peg to feel interesting.”

([https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/maureen-johnson/13-little-blue-envelopes/.](https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/maureen-johnson/13-little-blue-envelopes/))