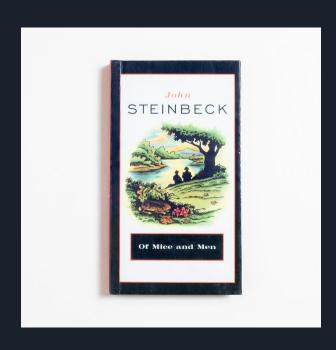
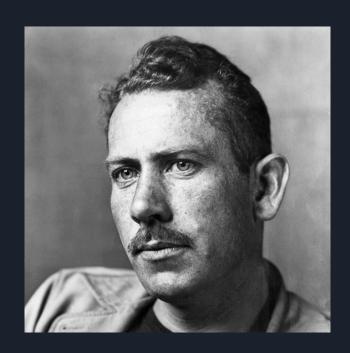
Of Mice and Men Author: John Steinbeck

By: Esmeralda Caloca Lopez

American writer born February 27, 1902 in Salinas, CA and died December 20, 1968 New York





Rationale/ Why Of Mice and Men?

- **Genre**: Contemporary Realistic Fiction "creates imaginary characters and situations that depict our world and society".
- The book was published in 1937 and a question that can get students into the book is by having them search up what was happening in America during that time.
- This is how students will see the genre of contemporary realistic fiction and try to see issues that the characters are facing.
- The book was written around the Great Depression which lasted from 1929 through 1941. This is seen within the characters because they're desperate for a job and eat beans for supper.

Issues in Of Mice and Men

- Chapters four through eight in Adolescents in the Search for Meaning include issues that are presented in this canonical text, such as 1. Making life choices 2. Facing violence and abuse 3.
 Facing death and loss 4. Dealing with identity and discrimination and 5. Struggles with decisions.
- Discrimination is seen when a black character named Crooks has to be isolated because of his skin color. Lennie is also disliked because of his disability.
- George struggles with the decision of having to kill Lennie but he does it because he knows that Curly would have made Lennie suffer since Lennie killed Curley's wife and committed other acts of violence.

2 other texts

• 2 other texts that represent the genre of Contemporary Realistic Fiction are *Speak* and *Atlantia*.

Main Issue in *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

- In Adolescents in the Search for Meaning, chapter four discusses issues of facing violence and abuse
- Abuse and violence occur when Melinda is raped by Andy Evans.
- Her abuse causes her mental health problems and her grades severely decline. This is seen in the report cards that are included in the book.

Main issue in *Atlantia* by Ally Condie

- Rio and Bay experience the loss of their father and mother. Rio then has to struggle with the decision of going up above to find her sister.
- This book also brings up the theme of pollution because the underwater world is healthier than up above.

How to get students into the text

- Similar to book talk, students can pick a book they want to read depending on their reading level and interest
- Students will do a presentation and summarize the book
- After summarizing, students will share their favorite character of the book and share three items from their "luggage" that the character would take with them
- After sharing their items, they will share three personality traits that they see within their character
- Another resource that can get students into the text is providing them with a plot diagram where they can write down the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution

Plot Diagram

- Salinas River
- Lennie and George are friends but Lennie has a disability
- Curley doesn't like Lennie
 and Curley's wife seeks attention
- Lennie breaks Curley's wife's neck
- Lennie hides by the river
- George had to kill his friend Lennie

EXPOSITION



Off the Salinas River in California two migrant workers George and Lennie travel to a ranch for work. After leaving a previous job because Lennie grabbed a woman by her dress.

CONFLICT





Lennie and George are friends however, Lennie is developmentally disabled and because of his childlike mentality the two friends often find themselves in trouble.



Curley, the boas's son, immediately takes a dislike to Lennie. Curley's wife is always seeking the attention of the men. The boys make friends with the ranch bands and feel closer to achieving their dream of owning their farm when Candy offers up a large sum of money.

CLIMAX



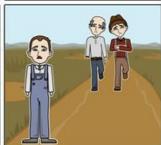
Lennie was given a guppy by slim and as he was in the barn tending it Curiey's wife enters and they begin to talk. Without reaking it Lennie grabs her hair because he likes soft things. When she gets nervous and tells him to stop, he panies and breaks her neck.

FALLING ACTION



Lennie was given specific instructions by George that if anything bad happened he should hide down near the river. When he does George meets him there.

RESOLUTION



In the end, George shoots Lennie before Curley is able to find him. The men cover it up however, the reader knows that the sorrow they all share that George had to kill his best friend.

Create your own at StoryboardThat.com

Class activity

- 1. Think of a favorite book or piece of literature that you're currently reading or have read
- 2. Pick your favorite character and share three items that the character would add in their luggage
- 3. Pick three personality traits that your character has