

Choose one of the topics below to write a unified essay, 5-6 paragraphs in length.

1. Analyze Steinbeck's portrayal of Curley's wife. Consider the following: is she a victim or is she culpable in her death? Is she a sympathetic or unsympathetic character?
2. *Of Mice and Men* reveals that people can be cruel, or kind, or a mixture of both. Explore this concept by comparing/contrasting the characters' treatment of others.
3. Explore one of the dominant **themes** in the book:
 - a) Oppression and abuse dominates peoples' lives. The characters are deprived of love, companionship, and dreams due to artificial barriers, such as fear and a lack of social status. Consider one or more of the following oppressive forces: the social structure of the society/ lack of educational opportunities/ financial situations/ prejudice against people with learning disabilities/ people of different races, class, and gender.
 - b) Isolation and loneliness can only be overcome by companionship. Everyone on the ranch experiences the loneliness of the existence and the need for companionship causes serious problems. Discuss how the characters struggle with loneliness.
 - c) The American dream is flawed/unattainable.
 - d) The difference between right and wrong is sometimes blurred. Explore the deaths of the pup, Curley's wife, and Lennie.

Criteria:

- Multi-paragraph persuasive essay of approximately 750 words.
- Includes quotations from the novel that are integrated into each body paragraph, are well explained, and enhance your argument.
- Includes proper citations (in text and on a Works Cited page).
- Preferably typed
- Completed essay outline and edited rough copy
- Great Hall contact with me
- Double-spaced good copy with proper title and heading.

