

Research Critical Essay: *Of Mice and Men*

(131 + 69 = 200 points)

Thesis: This essay will argue that (1) foreshadowing in *Of Mice and Men* results in (2) the inevitable destruction of George and Lennie's dream.

Note: Foreshadowing means certain **early** words/scenes (1st body paragraph) **repeat** toward a significant outcome (2nd body paragraph).

Note: Your two topic sentences are hinted at above (by #1 & #2). The #1 & #2 AREN'T to be included in your *Of Mice and Men* thesis.

Assignment Requirements/1st Grading:

01. Thesis Paragraph (thesis only)
02. 1st Body Paragraph—the FORESHADOWING events
 - *3 CDs (minimum)/4 CDs if you're going for bonus pts
 - *Each CD has 2 CMs (minimum)
 - *Concluding/transitioning sentence
03. 2nd Body Paragraph—the FULFILLMENT events
 - *3 CDs (minimum)/4 CDs if you're going for bonus pts
 - *Each CD has 2 CMs (minimum)
 - *Concluding sentence

Assignment REQUIREMENTS/Final Grading:

01. **Cover Sheet** (flawless; see your model)
02. **Table of Contents** (flawless, see your model)
03. **Four Paragraph Critical Essay**
 - a. Introduction Paragraph (hook, linkers, thesis)
 - b. Body Paragraph #01 (topic, 3 embedded CDs; six CMs; one concluding sentence)
 - c. Body Paragraph #02 (topic, 3 embedded CDs; six CMs; one concluding sentence)
 - d. Conclusion Paragraph (recur to hook & thesis, review body paragraphs, 5+ sentences)
04. **Appendix** (one captioned picture)
05. **Works Cited** (flawless), with following THREE (3) entries minimum:
 - a. *Of Mice and Men* b. "Critical Essay #01" or "#02" c. Appendix's Picture (cited)
06. **Body Paragraph Layout:**

(01) Topic Sentence	(05) Embedded Quote	(08) Embedded Quote
(02) Embedded Quote	(06) Commentary	(09) Commentary
(03) Commentary	(07) Commentary	(10) Commentary
(04) Commentary		(11) Concluding Sentence
- 06a. **CDs built as follows:** (a) the Transition, (b) the Setup, (c) the Embedded Quote
07. **Checklist** (completed)

Assignment OPTIONS:

08. Another Critical Essay that you find as a **second** resource to quote in your essay (max +5 pts), as follow:

- *This source **MUST** be cited in your essay
- *This source **MUST** be a Works Cited entry
- *This source is found by using Mrs. Erickson's (our librarian's) research methods/resources

09. Thesaurus Words (max. +3)

- *Five Thesaurus Words = One Pt (bonus)
- *Ten Thesaurus Words = Two Pts (bonus)
- *Fifteen Thesaurus Words = Three Pts (bonus)

Grading: The initial 131-point assessment is based on **QUALITY OF ARGUMENT**. Afterwards, points are **SUBTRACTED** for technical errors (punctuation, spelling, etc.) and Writers Rules infractions (review your handout) at **one-quarter point** per error/infraction (rounded up), and missing parts of assignment (e.g., coversheet, appendix, table of contents) at **six whole points** each missing part.

Mastery	A	=	90.0% - 100%	(180 - 200+ pts)
Proficient	B	=	80.0% - 89.999%	(160 - 179 pts)
Basic	C	=	70.0% - 79.999%	(140 - 159 pts)
Below Basic	D - F	=	00.0% - 69.999%	(000 - 139 pts)

Special Note: Initial Grading!

For the initial "graded" draft, you will only hand in **(1)** a thesis-sentence paragraph; **(2)** the first body paragraph; and **(3)** the second body paragraph. Total possible points at this stage: **131/200**.

Upon having the (above) draft graded & returned, you will correct it then defend & resubmit it. However, this time you will **INCLUDE** the following **(1)** Cover Sheet; **(2)** Table of Contents; **(3)** Appendix; and **(4)** Works Cited. (Optional elements: Thesaurus Words, End Notes, etc.). Total possible points at this stage: **200/200** (plus bonus).

Why are we doing this? In part to exercise and expand your capabilities according to the following **California State Standards** (non-exhaustive list):

Reading

- 2.5 Extend ideas presented in primary or secondary sources through original analysis, evaluation, and elaboration.
- 3.3 Analyze interactions between main and subordinate characters in a literary text (e.g., internal and external conflicts, motivations, relationships, influences) and explain the way those interactions affect the plot.
- 3.4 Determine characters' traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, dramatic monologue, and soliloquy.

Writing

- 1.6 Integrate quotations and citations into a written text while maintaining the flow of ideas.
- 1.7 Use appropriate conventions for documentation in the text, notes, and bibliographies by adhering to those in style manuals (e.g., *Modern Language Association Handbook*, *The Chicago Manual of Style*).

Information Literacy

The student who is Information Literate . . .

- *accesses information efficiently, effectively

- *evaluates information critically, competently
- *uses information accurately, creatively

The student who contributes positively to the learning community . . .

- *practices ethical behavior regarding information and information technology

Example/THESIS: *This essay will argue that Steinbeck's Lennie Small character is a sympathetic person.*

Example/Embedded CD: *For example, while sitting and chatting with Slim, George says of Lennie, "He ain't bright. Hell of a good worker, though. Hell of a nice fella but he ain't bright" (Steinbeck 34).*

Example/CMs #01 & #02: *By the above statement a reader can see that George has been around Lennie long enough to know Lennie's characteristics. George appreciates Lennie's ability to work hard but also realizes Lennie needs someone else's guidance.*

Example/WORKS CITED ENTRY: Remember, *alphabetize* the entries!!!

Works Cited

Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*. New York: Penguin Books, 1993.

CHECKLIST

(Check this off PRIOR TO handing in your essay)

- 01. Essay
- 02. T-Sentences underlined
- 03. CDs & CMs (yellow, non-yellow)
- 04. Coversheet (flawless; see your model)
- 05. Table of Contents (flawless, see your model)
- 06. Appendix (with caption; see your model)
- 07. Works Cited (alphabetical, check your Works Cited resource)
- 08. Yes, I HAVE reviewed the following Writers Rules: #1, #2, #3, #4, #9
- 09. Thesaurus Words (optional)
- 10. This Checklist!