# Of Mice and Men

By John Steinbeck

This Reading Guide Belongs to:

__________________________________________Period

## READING ASSIGNMENT SHEET - Of Mice and Men

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<tr>
<th>Date Assigned</th>
<th>Reading Assignment (Chapters)</th>
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PREREADING VOCABULARY
Chapter 1 Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. Lennie hesitated, backed away, looked wildly at the brush line as though he contemplated running for his freedom.

2. Lennie reluctantly reached into his pocket.

3. Lennie sat down on the ground and hung his head dejectedly.

4. He took on the elaborate manner of little girls when they are mimicking one another.

5. He looked across the fire at Lennie'sanguished face, and then he looked ashamedly at the flames.

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

1. contemplated  
2. reluctantly  
3. dejectedly  
4. mimicking  
5. anguished

A. miserably; in a depressed manner
B. imitating
C. unwillingly; hesitantly
D. showing an agonizing physical or mental pain
E. considered thoughtfully

Part III. Using three of the words from above, create three unique sentences:

1. 

2. 

3.
Chapter 1- Discussion Questions

1. Identify and give a physical description of Lennie and George.

2. What trouble did George and Lennie have in Weed?

3. What is in Lennie's pocket? Why does he have it?

4. George bursts into a long speech about what he could do if he were alone. What could he do?

5. Lennie offers to go away and live in a cave. What is George's response?

6. Why are George and Lennie different from the other "guys like us that work on ranches"?

7. What are George and Lennie going to do someday?

8. What two things does George want Lennie to remember?
Vocabulary - *Of Mice and Men* Chapter 2

**Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues**

1. "I ain't so sure," said George **skeptically**.

2. He said **ominously**, "Well, he better watch out for Lennie."

3. He had drawn a **derogatory** statement from George.

4. His face **contorted** with thought.

5. She was suddenly **apprehensive**.

6. Lennie, who had been following the conversation back and forth with his eyes, smiled **complacently** at the compliment.

7. Carlson stepped back to let Slim **precede** him, and then the two of them went out the door.

**Part II: Determining the Meaning -- Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 skeptically</td>
<td>A. uneasy; anxious</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 precede</td>
<td>B. in a self-satisfied manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 ominously</td>
<td>C. showing doubt or disbelief; questioningly</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 derogatory</td>
<td>D. twisted or strained out of shape</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 contorted</td>
<td>E. go before</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 apprehensive</td>
<td>F. threateningly</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 complacently</td>
<td>G. showing disrespect</td>
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**Part III. Using three of the words from above, create three unique sentences:**

1. 

2. 

3. 
Chapter 2-Discussion Questions

1. Why does the boss ask George about what he’s is trying to “put over”?

2. Identify and describe Curley.

3. The swamper said, "Seems like Curley ain't givin' nobody a chance." Explain.

4. What advice does George give Lennie after Curley and the swamper leave?

5. Identify and describe Slim

6. Identify Carlson.

7. What does Slim have that Lennie wants?
Vocabulary - *Of Mice and Men* Chapter 3

**Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues.**

1. He reached down and picked the tiny puppy from where Lennie had been concealing it against his stomach.

2. Slim gazed at him for a moment and then looked down at his hands; he subdued one hand with the other, and held it down.

3. He subsided, grumbling to himself, threatening the future cats which might dare to disturb future rabbits.

4. George sat entranced with his own picture.

5. When Candy spoke they both jumped as though they had been caught doing something reprehensible.

**Part II: Determining the Meaning- Match the word to its definition.**

1. ______ concealing  
   A. fascinated

2. ______ subdued  
   B. settled down

3. ______ subsided  
   C. to quiet or bring under control by physical force

4. ______ reprehensible  
   D. worthy of blame; deserving censure

5. ______ entranced  
   E. hiding

**Part III. Using three of the words from above, create three unique sentences:**

1.

2.

3.
Chapter 3-Discussion Questions

1. Slim and George have a long conversation. Slim says it's funny how George and Lennie go around together. What is George's answer?

2. Identify and describe Candy.

3. What did Carlson do with his Luger? Why?

4. Describe Curley's wife.

5. What will Lennie's job be when he and George get their land?

6. What does Candy want when he hears about George's and Lennie's plans? What is he willing to contribute?

7. Why did Curley fight with Lennie? What happened?
Vocabulary - *Of Mice and Men* Chapter 4

**Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues**

1. In the stable buck's room a small electric globe threw a **meager** yellow light.

2. Crooks scowled, but Lennie's **disarming** smile defeated him.

3. She paused and her face lost its **sullenness** and grew interested.

4. She was breathless with **indignation**.

5. She **appraised** him coolly.

**Part II: Determining the Meaning**

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

1. ____ **appraised**  
   A. gloominess

2. ____ **meager**  
   B. endearing, tending to remove hostility or suspicion

3. ____ **disarming**  
   C. an anger aroused by something unjust, mean or unworthy

4. ____ **indignation**  
   D. evaluated

5. ____ **sullenness**  
   E. deficient in quantity; scant

**Part III. Using three of the words from above, create three unique sentences:**

1.

2.

3.
Chapter 4-Discussion Questions

1. Identify and describe Crooks.

2. Lennie tells Crooks about the land. What is his reply at first?

3. What does Crooks want when he believes there might really be land?

4. What does Curley’s wife say is her reason for coming to the barn? What inference can the reader make about her real reason for coming to the barn?

5. Why does Crooks change his mind about the land after Curley's wife leaves?
Vocabulary - *Of Mice and Men* Chapter 5

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

1. She *consoled* him. "Don't you worry none. He was jus' a mutt. You can get another one easy."

2. And because she had *confided* in him, she moved closer to Lennie and sat beside him.

3. Her feet battered on the hay and she *writhed* to be free; and from under Lennie's hand came a muffled screaming.

4. For a moment he seemed *bewildered*.

5. "Then--it's all off?" Candy said *sulkily*.

6. He *sniveled*, and his voice shook.

Part II: Determining the Meaning

1. _______consoled  A. twisted
2. _______confided  B. cried or wept with sniffling
3. _______writhed  C. confused
4. _______bewildered  D. gloomily
5. _______sulkily  E. told private matters not intended for public knowledge
6. _______sniveled  F. comforted

Part III. Using three of the words from above, create three unique sentences:

1. 

2. 

3. 
Chapter 5-Discussion Questions

1. What happened to Lennie's puppy? What is his reaction?

2. Why did Curley's wife come to see Lennie?

3. What did she tell Lennie?

4. Describe what happens involving Curley’s wife.

5. What was George's reaction when he finds out “the news”?

6. What was Curley's reaction to “the news”? 
Vocabulary - *Of Mice and Men* Chapter 6

**Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues**

1. Now Lennie *retorted* belligerently, "He ain't neither."

2. Now Lennie retorted belligerently, "He ain't neither."

3. His voice was *monotonous*, had no emphasis.

4. Lennie jarred, and then settled slowly forward to the sand, and he lay without *quivering*.

**Part II: Determining the Meaning**

1. _______ retorted A. trembling
2. _______ belligerently B. replied sharply
3. _______ monotonous C. hostilely; aggressively
4. _______ quivering D. unvarying the vocal tone or pitch

**Part III. Using three of the words from above, create three unique sentences:**

1. 

2. 

3. 
Chapter 6- Discussion Questions

1. What is the setting for Chapter Six? Why has Lennie come here?

2. Who are the two individuals that Lennie imagines comes and talks to him? What do they tell him?

3. Who is the only one who really understands what George did (aside from George himself)?

4. What do you imagine will happen to George next? Where will he go? What will he do? Explain.