One of the characters in *Of Mice and Men* may be seen as mentally retarded. Research mental retardation. What are the physical and behavioral characteristics of mental retardation? What are the “levels” of retardation? What information do medical and disability-awareness groups present?

What signs do you think the character Lennie displays that suggest mental retardation? Use the lines below to indicate passages (including page numbers) that show how Lennie is different. After you have finished the novel, use these notes to assess whether or not you agree with Lennie’s being labeled as mentally retarded.
Of Mice and Men

Name ______________________ __

Creative Writing Activity • Use After Reading Chapter 1

Imitating an Author’s Style - 1

Reread the first paragraph of Of Mice and Men on page 1. This descriptive paragraph gives you a clear picture of what this place on the river is like. Although Steinbeck has mostly told you how the place looks, you can almost feel the warm water and the damp sand and hear a lizard skittering through the leaves or a deer lapping water at the river’s edge.

Think of a place outdoors—it can be your own backyard, a favorite vacation spot, or a vacant lot. Close your eyes and spend some time imagining you are there. Make a few notes in the “thought balloon” map below. Then write a paragraph describing your outdoor place, using your notes and referring back to the Steinbeck paragraph as you try to imitate his style.

(Use the empty balloons for other ideas, thoughts, and feelings.)

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Imitating an Author’s Style - II

Reread the first paragraph of Chapter Two on page 19. This paragraph describes a room. It includes a listing of articles used by the ranch men, and the phrases about Western magazines and the table with the playing cards on it tell you something about how the men spend their time.

Picture your own room. Write a paragraph describing your room, and be sure to include phrases about items a first-time visitor to your room would see that would tell something about your unique personality. Start with a thought balloon map on the back of your paper.

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Imitating an Author’s Style - III

Reread the first paragraph on page 37. This descriptive paragraph tells you about Slim—how he dresses, how he acts, what his capabilities are, and how others react to him.

Write a descriptive paragraph about someone you know well. You might choose a close friend or a family member. Be sure to include, as Steinbeck did, how your subject dresses and acts, what he or she is especially good at doing, and how other people react. Make a list of these qualities on the back of your paper before beginning to write.
To Have a Friend...

Each of the quotations below concerns friendship. Think about each in relation to the friendship between George and Lennie. Decide if there is a correlation. Indicate your answer in the yes/no column, and then explain what the correlation is, or why you feel there is none.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotation</th>
<th>Correlation?</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with.&quot; Mark Twain</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The bird a nest, the spider a web, man friendship.&quot; William Blake</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Rather the bite of a friend than the kiss of an enemy.&quot; Sholom Aleichem</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;How I like to be liked, and what I do to be liked!&quot; Charles Lamb</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I do not want people to be very agreeable, as it saves me the trouble of liking them a great deal.&quot; Jane Austen</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Most people enjoy the inferiority of their friends.&quot; Lord Chesterfield</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Character</td>
<td>Looks</td>
<td>Says</td>
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<tr>
<td>George</td>
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<td>Lennie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crooks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Curley's Wife</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting...Characters...Action!

Setting #1

Characters

Exposition (What is the opening situation?)

Setting #2

Additional Characters

What is the potential for conflict?

What conflict develops?

How is the conflict resolved?
Study Guide

Chapters 1 and 2

1. Identify the following people by telling something important about each one.
   a. Lennie
   b. George
   c. Curley
   d. Slim
   e. Carlson
   f. Candy
   g. Crooks

2. Why does Lennie like little mice, puppies, and rabbits?

3. a. When did George meet Lennie?
   b. From his actions, how do you think George feels about Lennie?
   c. Why do you think George takes care of Lennie?

4. Describe the dream that George and Lennie share? Be specific.

5. What did Lennie do in Weed to get in trouble?
Chapters 3 and 4

1. Why doesn’t Candy want to kill his dog? ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

   Are Candy’s feelings understandable? Have you ever felt very attached to an old or sick animal that had to be put to sleep? Explain your feelings. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

   Why does Candy say later on that he should have shot his dog himself and not let a stranger do it? ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

2. Why did Curley pick on Lennie? ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

   Describe Curley’s main problem in your opinion. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

   Why didn’t Lennie fight back at first when Curley hit him? ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

   What happened to Curley as a result of picking on Lennie? ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

3. How does Crooks react to Lennie’s appearance at the door of his room? ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

   Crooks says people at the ranch don’t like him because ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

   Crooks invites Lennie to stay and talk with him because ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
Chapters 5 and 6

1. What things does Lennie do or say that show he is mentally retarded? List at least three specific acts or incidents.

   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

2. a. Is George's treatment of Lennie fair? Explain. _______________________________________________________
   
   b. Is George's treatment of Lennie understandable? Explain. _______________________________________________________
   
   c. Could he have helped him more? How? _______________________________________________________

3. How do these characters treat Lennie and why? Give one incident for each that shows his/her treatment of Lennie.
   a. Candy _______________________________________________________
   
   b. Curley's wife _______________________________________________________
   
   c. Crooks _______________________________________________________

   What do they all have in common? (Why do they all talk to him?) _______________________________________________________

4. Why does Lennie kill the puppy and later the girl? _______________________________________________________

5. Do you think Lennie had to be shot? What were some other alternatives? What would have happened to Lennie if George hadn't shot him? _______________________________________________________

6. How is the killing of Lennie similar to the killing of Candy's dog? Why do you think George killed Lennie himself instead of letting the men do it? _______________________________________________________

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Root Words

Directions
Look up the following words ending in “ly.” They are adverbs—they add to the meaning of the verb with which they are used. Notice their root words or base words. Provide definitions for each word listed.

1. dejectedly
   deject ________________________
   dejected ____________________

2. apologetically
   apology ______________________
   apologize ____________________

3. craftily
   craft _________________________
   crafty _________________________

4. ominously _________________________
   ominous _________________________

5. defensively _______________________
   defend _________________________
   defensive ________________________

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Name ______________________

6. complacently _____________________________
   complacent _____________________________

7. intensively ______________________________
   intensity ______________________________
   intense ________________________________
   tense _________________________________
   intensive ________________________________

8. amusedly ________________________________
   amused ________________________________
   amuse _________________________________
   muse _________________________________

9. contemptuously ___________________________
   contemptuous ___________________________
   contempt ______________________________

10. dutifully ______________________________
    dutiful ______________________________
    duty ________________________________

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Matching
Write the letter of the correct definition next to each word in the left-hand column.

_____ 1. dejected a. express regret; say you are sorry
_____ 2. apologize b. threatening; evil
_____ 3. crafty c. entertain; make someone laugh
_____ 4. ominous d. showing great energy or emotion
_____ 5. defend e. cunning; skillfully deceitful
_____ 6. complacent f. to guard; protect
_____ 7. intensive g. obedient; respectful
_____ 8. amuse h. depressed; disheartened
_____ 9. contemptuous i. content; self-satisfied; smug
_____ 10. dutiful j. holding someone; something in low regard

Completion
Fill in each blank with the correct form of the given root word.

11. deject
The team was _____________________________ by the narrow loss.
I walked _____________________________ into my room and closed the door.

12. complacent
I dislike people who are too _____________________________ toward an activity.
They acted very _____________________________ about the entire incident.

13. ominous
The weather looked so _____________________________ that I couldn’t go outside.
The vulture flew _____________________________ over its helpless victim.
Name__________________________

14. **amuse**
   I was __________________________ by the school play.
   His __________________________ act delighted us.
   People who tell funny stories __________________________ me.

15. **intense**
   Going to court was a very __________________________ experience.
   The basketball team plays with great __________________________.
   The injured student had to be placed in __________________________ care.
   He researched the subject __________________________.

16. **duty**
   Everyone must do his __________________________ if we are to finish on time.
   She __________________________ handed in her homework assignment.
   A __________________________ person always does what is expected of her.

17. **craft**
   The pickpocket __________________________ removed the man’s wallet from his pocket.
   He showed great __________________________ by outsmarting the policeman.
   The __________________________ robber entered the store.

18. **defense**
   The army’s __________________________ broke down, and it had to surrender.
   Many football games turn into __________________________ battles.
   The basketball team played __________________________.

19. **contempt**
   The student turned and walked __________________________ away from the teacher.
   He showed his __________________________ by spitting in his enemy’s face.
   Slapping someone’s face is a __________________________ action.

20. **apology**
   The student offered an __________________________ for his wild behavior.
   She wanted to __________________________ for missing her appointment.
   I tried to act __________________________ so as not to make my mistake any worse.

   On the back of your paper, write a sentence for one form of each root word.
Directions
The correct answers to the questions below are found in the Word Search puzzle at the right. As you fill in the blanks, circle the answer in the puzzle as well. Each blank is worth one point, but only if the answer is also circled in the puzzle.

For extra credit, circle and list other words you find in the puzzle (1/2 point for each extra word).

1. The author of the novel (last name only) is __________________________.
2. The story takes place near the __________________________ River.
3. The owner of the "ancient" sheepdog is __________________________.
4. "Tell about the __________________________, George."
5. Lennie likes to pet them, but he often kills the __________________________.
6. Lennie's companion is __________________________.
7. The ranch men often played __________________________ in the bunkhouse.
8. __________________________ shot Candy's dog.
9. Lennie's ironic last name is __________________________.
10. George says __________________________ is "dumb but not crazy."
11. __________________________ is the town where Lennie "just wanted to feel the girl's dress."
12. The mental ability that Lennie does not have is __________________________.
13. __________________________ is the husband of the "tart" and son of the boss.
14. __________________________ is the name of the stable buck.
15. John Steinbeck's novel is called Of Mice and __________________________.
16. __________________________ is a "skinner" and the foreman of the barley buckers.

Additional words found:
True-False
Write “true” if the statement is true and “false” if it is false.

1. Curley’s wife came into the barn in order to get a date.  
2. Lennie did not know he would hurt the girl if he touched her.  
3. George thought there was a good chance Lennie would be taken alive after he killed Curley’s wife.  
4. Curley’s wife wore a simple dress the night she was killed.  
5. The weapon used to kill Lennie was a rifle.  
7. The scene with Lennie and the dead puppy gives the reader a clue about what might happen with Curley’s wife.  
8. The only person who did not go after Lennie in the end was Crooks.  
9. In the end, George blamed Lennie for what he did.  
10. The giant rabbit and Lennie’s Aunt Clara were all in Lennie’s imagination.

Sequencing
Put the following events in order—“1” before the first thing that happened, etc.

11. George finds Lennie by the river.  
12. The rabbit appears before Lennie.  
13. Lennie kills Curley’s wife.  
15. We see Lennie with the dead puppy.  
16. George and Slim go off to have a drink.
Multiple Choice
Circle the letter of the best answer.

17. Lennie is best described as
   a. sensitive   b. intelligent   c. playful and innocent   d. a and c

18. How does George really feel about Lennie?
   a. He is sick of him.   c. He wishes Lennie would go away.
   b. He hates being with Lennie. d. None of these.

19. All of the following got along fine with Lennie except

20. The main idea of this story was to show
   a. how a man could make a mistake
   b. the loneliness of man and his need for others
   c. how hard it is to live with a retarded person
   d. life in the early West

Short Answer
Briefly answer each question below.

21. What plan did Lennie reveal to Crooks, and what was Crooks’ reply?

22. What was Candy’s opinion of Curley’s wife?

23. What was Candy’s greatest fear after Curley’s wife died?

24. How are Candy’s old dog and Lennie alike?

25. Describe the final scene of the novel.
Matching
In each section, match the letter of the character with his/her corresponding description. The letters may be used more than once.


_____ 1. One with great feeling for others; George confided to him about Lennie's experience in Weed.
_____ 2. One who said that he had almost started to believe the farm dream would come true.
_____ 3. The son of the boss of the ranch.
_____ 4. One whom Lennie accidentally killed.
_____ 5. One who wanted to be a movie star.
_____ 6. The jerkline skinner on the ranch.


_____ 7. The old swamper.
_____ 8. The man whose hand was crushed by Lennie.
_____ 9. The one who shoots an old dog.
_____ 11. The man who is crippled by a crooked back.
_____ 12. The man who lost a hand and received $250 because of it.

Multiple Choice
Choose the best answer for each question.

13. Lennie can BEST be described as
   a. insane  b. mentally ill  c. mentally retarded  d. crazy

14. When Lennie and George go to the ranch, they get a job
   a. harvesting  b. baling hay  c. bucking barley  d. cleaning stalls

15. The setting of the story is
16. Lennie’s favorite saying about the dream was
   a. “The barn will be full o’ pups.”
   b. “We’ll live off the fatta the lan’.”
   c. “The alfalfa will keep my rabbits fat and healthy.”
   d. “We’ll have lotsa ketchup.”

17. George and Lennie were late for their first day of work because
   a. it was a hot day for a walk
   b. they missed their train because of the trouble in Weed
   c. their horses were stolen at the pond
   d. the bus driver let them off too far away

18. If Lennie got in trouble, he had instructions to
   a. find George right away  c. run away to the South
   b. hide in the brush by the river  d. give himself up peacefully without a fight

19. Lennie talked about going to live in a cave because he
   a. wanted to be alone  c. wanted to look for mice
   b. wanted to make George angry  d. wanted George to stop being mean to him

20. Lennie and George were very close. The saying they used to show this was:
   a. “I got you, ‘n’ you got me.”
   b. “We’ll have lotsa rabbits and pups.”
   c. “We’ll pull our stake and buy that farm.”
   d. “Nothin’ is better than being together.”

21. The point of view of the novel is
   a. first person/Lennie  c. third person/narrator
   b. first person/Steinbeck  d. second person/narrator

22. The best description for Slim is
   a. “prince of the ranch”  c. “God-like” to the other men
   b. “expert mule team driver”  d. all of these

23. After talking to Slim, George promised Lennie he would
   a. tell Slim about their dream  c. ask for a pup for Lennie
   b. tell Slim to keep quiet  d. ask for more pay

24. Lennie started traveling and working with George when
   a. he was let out of an institution  d. he was found wandering the streets
   b. his parents died  e. both c and d
   c. his aunt died
25. In both the first and last chapters of the book 
   a. the setting is the same  
   b. George tells Lennie about the dream  
   c. Lennie is running away from trouble  
   d. all of these  
   e. only a and b

26. One similarity between the killing of the dog and the killing of Lennie is that they both 
   a. were going to die of old age anyway  
   b. had gotten into trouble and deserved to die  
   c. smelled bad  
   d. would have had to suffer if they went on living

27. George told Slim that when he and Lennie were younger, George 
   a. tried to teach Lennie to read and write but it didn’t work  
   b. played tricks on Lennie but he was too dumb to realize it  
   c. tried to help Lennie get to know the other kids in the neighborhood  
   d. attempted to teach Lennie how to drive

28. One characteristic common to all the characters is 
   a. indignity  
   b. loneliness  
   c. happiness  
   d. conceit

29. George let Candy join him and Lennie in their dream farm. Why? 
   a. Candy said he would leave them his share in his will.  
   b. Candy offered to contribute money to buy the farm.  
   c. He would be useful to have around.  
   d. all of these  
   e. only b and c

30. If Lennie hadn’t been ________________, Curley wouldn’t have started a fight. 
   a. laughing  
   b. smiling  
   c. snickering  
   d. talking

31. George disliked Curley at their first meeting because 
   a. Curley picked on Lennie  
   b. Curley threatened to fight George  
   c. of Curley’s reputation as a boxer  
   d. Curley’s wife was talking to George

32. Curley is always suspicious of the other ranch hands because 
   a. he is checking up for the boss  
   b. he is bigger than them  
   c. he is looking for a fight  
   d. his wife is a tart
33. The stable buck’s room was in  
   a. the main house  
   b. a little shed off the side of the barn  
   c. the hayloft  
   d. a small hotel in town  

34. When most of the men went into town, who came into Crooks’ room?  
   a. Lennie  
   b. Curley’s wife  
   c. Candy  
   d. all of these  
   e. a and c  

35. Crooks cruelly teased Lennie by telling him  
   a. George wasn’t coming back from town  
   b. Curley’s wife was after him  
   c. all of the puppies were dead  
   d. a big rabbit was standing behind Lennie  

36. When Curley’s wife asked Lennie what happened to Curley’s hand, Lennie and Candy let her think that  
   a. Lennie did it  
   b. George did it  
   c. a machine did it  
   d. Carlson did it  
   e. none of these  

37. Who knew about George and Lennie’s dream of owning their own farm?  
   a. everyone on the ranch  
   b. Candy and George  
   c. Lennie and George only  
   d. Crooks, Candy, George, and Lennie  
   e. Curley, Candy, George, and Lennie  

38. Lennie killed his pup by  
   a. drowning it  
   b. choking it  
   c. hitting it  
   d. shooting it  

39. Curley’s wife told Lennie all of the following EXCEPT  
   a. she had lived in Salinas  
   b. she once knew a man who said he could put her in the movies  
   c. she hated Curley  
   d. she planned to run away from the ranch in the next few weeks  
   e. she was sure her mother had stolen a letter addressed to her  

40. While Curley’s wife was in the barn with Lennie, most of the other men were  
   a. bucking barley  
   b. playing horseshoes  
   c. sleeping  
   d. playing cards in the bunkhouse  

41. Lennie killed Curley’s wife because  
   a. he hated Curley  
   b. he was afraid of women  
   c. he liked to touch soft things  
   d. he got scared when she started to scream  
   e. both c and d
42. Lennie harmed living things because
   a. he was a born killer
   b. he didn’t know his own strength
   c. he liked to pet soft things
   d. both a and b
   e. both b and c

43. When Lennie realized he had killed Curley’s wife, he did all of the following except
   a. said “I done a bad thing.”
   b. took the dead puppy with him
   c. ran to a hiding place
   d. ran to look for George

44. Who first found Curley’s wife dead?
   a. Candy
   b. Slim
   c. George
   d. Curley

45. Lennie went
   a. up into the mountains
   b. to the Salinas River
   c. back to Weed
   d. to old Suzy’s place

46. When Lennie was hiding, he talked to
   a. an imaginary rabbit
   b. an imaginary Aunt Clara
   c. a puppy
   d. both a and b

47. George shot Lennie when
   a. they were sitting by the river
   b. George was telling the story of the rabbits
   c. George chased Lennie behind a bush
   d. both a and b
   e. none of these

48. The only person who really understood why George had to shoot Lennie was
   a. Slim
   b. Carlson
   c. Curley
   d. Whit

49. George’s killing of Lennie can BEST be compared to
   a. Lennie’s killing mice
   b. Lennie’s killing of Curley’s wife
   c. the shooting of Candy’s dog
   d. Lennie’s killing his pup

50. All of the following are themes (central ideas) of Of Mice and Men except
   a. a man desires to own his own land
   b. a man does not have to be smart to be nice
   c. a man is born to be selfish
   d. a man’s physical appearance has little to do with his personality

51. Men are like mice in that they
   a. are often helpless
   b. often have plans that do not work out
   c. are often trapped
   d. all of these
Vocabulary
Match the letter of the sentence with the correct adverb.

52. apologetically
   a. A fox trying to snare a chicken is acting _____.
53. craftily
   b. The hawk soared _____ in the sky above the scared rabbits.
54. ominously
   c. Someone who is being arrested and knows he is guilty will probably act _____.
55. dejectedly
   d. A person saying he is sorry for something is acting _____.
56. defensively
   e. Lennie hung his head _____ when George yelled at him.

57. amusedly
   a. A maid or butler who kept his or her job would act _____.
58. contemptuously
   b. Children would watch a clown ___________.
59. complacently
   c. Someone who is at peace with his world might sit _____ and think about good things.
60. dutifully
   d. A detective in a long search for a known criminal would conduct his investigation _____.
61. intensively
   e. A student with a poor attitude might look at her teachers _____.

Short Answer
Answer each question briefly.

62. How did Lennie crush Curley's hand?

63. When the men found out Curley's wife was dead, what did they decide to do?

64. Why did Lennie kill his puppy?

65. How did George stop the other men from killing Lennie?
Essay Suggestions

Choose one of the following topics and write a well-developed essay. In your essay, be sure each paragraph has a topic sentence. Use enough reasons, examples, and specific details to back up your ideas. Make sure you have an introduction and a conclusion.

1. Discuss whether or not George’s actions in the final scene were proper. Include a discussion of what the alternatives for Lennie would be, and compare them to what actually happened in the novel.

2. Discuss what will happen next to George and Candy. Be sure to give reasons for your suppositions. You should be careful that the futures you choose for the characters are possible and realistic.

3. Discuss the ways in which Steinbeck lets the reader know that Lennie is mentally retarded. Give specific examples from the book.

4. Discuss what might have happened to Curley’s wife if she had not been killed. Would she leave Curley? Would she go to Hollywood? Invent a future for her.

5. Discuss what would have been the best sort of environment for Lennie. In what kind of place would he be able to do meaningful work, be happy, and stay out of trouble?

6. Discuss the effect of the Depression on the characters in the book.

7. Discuss a theme of the novel. What Truths about life are being stated by the author?

8. Write a comparison of two of the main characters, such as Curley and Slim, Candy and Carlson, Crooks and Lennie.

9. Summarize the story from Lennie’s point of view.

10. Write on a topic of your own choosing. (Do not do a plot summary.)
**Evaluation: Rubric for Essay-Writing**

The following is the set of criteria by which your essays will be graded. Use this sheet to check your essay before turning it in for a grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum number of points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Focus: Student writes a clear thesis and includes it in the opening paragraph.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Organization: The final draft reflects the assigned outline; transition words are used to link ideas.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Support: Sufficient details are cited to support the thesis; extraneous details are omitted.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Detail: Each quote or reference is explained (as if the teacher had not read the book); ideas are not redundant.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Mechanics: Spelling, capitalization, usage are correct.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sentence structure: The student avoids run-ons and fragments. There is an interesting variety of sentences.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Verbs: All verbs are in the correct tense; sections in which the plot is summarized are in present tense.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>8. Total effect of the essay (clarity, coherence, effectiveness):</td>
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**Comments:**

**Total Points:** _____
Of Mice and Men
Film Review
Use After Viewing Film

Name ____________________________________________

Title of Film: ____________________________________________

Based on the Novel: ____________________________________________

Movies based on novels are often different than the books on which they are based. Imagine you have been given a “sneak preview” of this film before it is released to the public. In exchange, the producers want your opinions on the following questions.

1. What are the differences between the film and the novel?

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2. Compare a character from the book with a character in the film. Was the character the way you pictured him/her? Is there another actor who would have been a better choice?

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3. How did the movie help you to better understand the book? Please be specific.

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PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

1. Three to four students work as a group and create a wall mural of various scenes from *Of Mice and Men*. The major scenes can be depicted and then arranged in chronological order.

2. Write an original short story (2-4 pages) telling what happens after Slim and George walk away from the others at the end of the novel. Be sure to describe the setting and include information that will show the reader how George is reacting to killing Lennie.

3. Use the library to research a topic related to the novel. Suggestions for topics are: mental retardation, the Great Depression, ranching, mules, the importance of spaying female dogs, how your favorite movie star broke into film.

4. Write a 2-4 page paper comparing the novel to the film. Discuss as many similarities and differences as you can find.

5. Create a poetry notebook. Write your own poem about each of the following themes from the novel: loneliness, friendship, hopes and dreams, people who are "different," death. Then locate poems on the same subjects by other poets. You may illustrate your notebook if you wish.

6. In a small group, brainstorm other possible titles for the novel which show the same kind of contrast (men are powerful, mice are meek).

7. Find the Salinas River and Soledad, California. Draw a map indicating their locations. In a magazine find pictures that look the way you think the forest where Lennie hid looked. Also find pictures that look like the ranch. Make a collage with your pictures and map.

8. Friendships are usually the result of people having something in common. As a whole group, take a classroom survey to find out what everyone has in common. The survey sheet should contain questions such as "What is your favorite sport?," "...favorite TV show?," "... best subject?" and so forth. After the survey questions are returned, a committee can tally and report the replies.
Answer Key

Study Guide

Chapters 1 and 2
1. Lennie Small is mentally retarded. He is George's companion.
2. George Milton is Lennie's companion and only friend.
3. Curley is the boss's son and is married to the "tart."
4. Slim is the jerkline skinner, boss of the grain team.
5. Carlson is a fat man who wants to get rid of Candy's old dog.
6. Candy is the old hired hand and owns the old dog.
7. Crooks is the Black stable buck.
8. Lennie likes to pet and hold soft things.
3a. George met Lennie when Lennie's aunt died.
3b. George has mixed feelings about Lennie.
3c. Lennie is a nuisance because he is constantly in need of immediate supervision due to his tendency to get into trouble. On the other hand, George feels sorry for Lennie because he can't help what he does. George promised Lennie's aunt he'd look after Lennie.
4. George and Lennie's dream is to own their own land, farm it, and raise rabbits.
5. Lennie felt a woman's dress in Weed, and she said he had raped her.

Chapters 3 and 4
1. Candy doesn't want to kill his old dog because he has had it since it was a pup. Most students will say that this is understandable. Encourage them to express their own feelings about a similar situation. Candy later feels he was a coward for not shooting his dog himself. Perhaps he feels he should have been with him in his last moments.
2. Lennie was smiling, and Curley thought Lennie was laughing at him. Curley's main problem is jealousy and his need to be a big shot, and the fact that his wife is constantly making him look like a fool by flirting with the men on the ranch. Lennie didn't fight back at first because George had told him not to. Curley's hand was crushed by Lennie.
3. When Lennie first appeared at Crooks' door, Crooks didn't want him there. Crooks says people dislike him because he's Black—at least he can have the dignity and privacy of his own room. When Lennie tells Crooks about the dream, Crooks at first does not believe him. When Candy confirms it, Crooks wants to be part of it and acts more friendly.

Chapters 5 and 6
1. Evidence to show Lennie's mental retardation: he acts like a child of about 6; has trouble remembering; is attached to George the way a small child is to a parent; kills small, soft things. Other people immediately notice there is something "wrong."
2a. Most students will probably say that George's treatment of Lennie is not always fair.
2b. Most students will probably answer "yes." Discussion in class should definitely follow.
2c. Perhaps George could have taken Lennie to a doctor or mental health specialist who could have helped him or found a place for him to stay. At the time the book was written, however, mental hospitals still tended to be of the "madhouse" variety. In your class discussion, you might want to talk about what could be done for Lennie today in your community.
3a. Candy likes Lennie and shows his companionship because Lennie wants to share his dream with him.
3b. Curley's wife is afraid of Lennie; however, she wants to talk to him in the barn nonetheless. Her loneliness outweighs her fear.
3c. Crooks likes Lennie because Lennie genuinely wants to be friends; Lennie is unaware of racial differences and treats Crooks with kindness and respect. All of the characters are very lonely, and each has some flaw. Candy is old and has lost a hand, Crooks suffers racial slurs and is crippled, and Curley's wife is a tease.
4. Lennie hits the puppy to try to teach him not to bite. He doesn’t realize his own strength—his blow kills the pup. When Curley’s wife invites him to touch her soft hair, he doesn’t want to let go. This frightens the girl, who begins screaming. Lennie, in trying to quiet her, breaks her neck. Both acts are completely unintentional.

5. This is student opinion, although most students will probably say that Lennie had to be shot because his punishment would have been too hard for him to bear. If the mob of men from the ranch had gotten to him before George shot him, he would have been frightened and confused. Even if they had shot him, it would have been a sharp contrast to the way George shot him, while Lennie was happily thinking of taking care of the rabbits. If he had been arrested for murder, he would have undoubtedly been locked up for life, not understanding what was happening to him, taken away from George and the dream.

6. Both deeds were done “for their own good.”

Vocabulary Quiz

1. h  2. a  3. e  4. b  5. f  6. i  7. d  8. c  9. j  10. g

11. dejected
    dejectedly

12. complacent
    complacent(ly)

13. ominous
    ominously

14. amused
    amusing

15. intense
    intensity
    intensively

16. duty
    dutifully
    dutiful

17. craftily
    craftiness
    crafty

18. defensive
    defensively

19. contemptuously
    contempt
    contemptuous

20. apology
    apologize
    apologetic

Word Search Quiz

(Chapters 1-3)

1. Steinbeck
2. Salinas
3. Candy
4. rabbits
5. mice
6. George
7. cards
8. Carlson
9. Small
10. Lennie
11. Weed
12. memory
13. Curley
14. Crooks
15. men
16. Slim

Additional Words
stein, now, son, down, no, paw, ice, spy, go, crook, dog, arab, bit, or, dawn, horse, show, curl, me, in, to, and, rob, on, is, so, do, pig, awe (29 total)

Students may find more.
Chapters 4-6 Quiz

11. 4 12. 3 13. 2 14. 5 15. 1
16. 6 17. d 18. d 19. d 20. b

21. Lennie told Crooks about the farm dream. At first, Crooks told him he was crazy. Then he wanted to join them.
22. He was sure the “tart” would cause trouble.
23. that George would no longer want to buy the farm
24. Both are unwanted by anyone except their best (and only) friends. They are both hard workers, loyal, and basically harmless. Both had to die “for their own good.”
25. To prevent Lennie’s being killed by the mob, George started telling him about the dream and quickly shot him in the head so he would never know what happened.

Final Exam

1. e  2. b  3. c  4. d  5. d  6. e
7. a  8. e  9. c  10. b  11. b  12. a
13. c  14. c  15. b  16. b  17. d  18. b
19. d  20. a  21. c  22. d  23. c  24. c
31. a  32. d  33. b  34. d  35. a  36. c
37. d  38. c  39. a  40. b  41. e/c  42. e
43. a  44. a  45. b  46. d  47. d  48. a
49. c  50. c  51. d  52. d  53. a  54. b
55. e  56. c  57. b  58. e  59. c  60. a
61. d
62. Lennie was too frightened to let go when they were fighting.
63. find Lennie and kill him
64. He was trying to teach the puppy not to bite, and hit it too hard.
65. He shot Lennie himself.