

Of Mice and Men Theme Project

We've spent a lot of time looking at how a narrative is constructed. We've spent almost as much time talking about how those parts come together in support of a larger idea, question, or message. This is your chance to explore that idea more with *Of Mice and Men*. Your job is to create a presentation that explores a major idea in the novel, supported by quotes from the text.

Sample:

Idea: Friendship

Theme: Friendship knows no bounds.

Examples and quotes from *Of Mice and Men*:

1. George keeps Lennie as a friend even though he could get along easier without Lennie and the trouble he causes. "Hide in the brush til I come for you. Can you remember that?" (Steinbeck 15).
2. Lennie is ready to go to battle for George anytime he thinks George needs him. "Ain't nobody goin' to talk no hurt to George" (Steinbeck 72).
3. George goes to the outer limits of friendship when he takes Lennie's life so that the end is happy for Lennie. "Look across the river, Lennie, an' I'll tell you so can almost see it" (Steinbeck 105).

Requirements:

- Creative Title
- Deep and arguable theme.
- 3 quotations that support your theme statement.
- Explanation of at least three sentences for each quote
- 4-6 pictures that support your quotes/theme statement

Presentation

Create a Poster with all team members' names on it. Due when you come to class on Thursday.

What to do:

1. **Choose a team** (2-4 students)
2. **Choose a theme**
 1. Possible Topic Ideas:
 1. Loneliness
 2. Friendship
 3. Courage

Due Thursday, October 6th

2. Decide what Steinbeck illustrated about that idea by looking at cause and effect. What does loneliness do to a person? What makes a person lonely? How does friendship affect a person's life? What do you have to do to be a friend? What is real courage (as opposed to what some people might *think* courage is)?
3. **Select Your Quotes**
 1. Go through the book and pick **three** great quotations to illustrate your theme. Assign each person a specific number of pages to parse through so that your team covers the entire book.
4. **Write Your explanations**
 1. Each quote should be followed by at least **three** sentences **explaining** not just what's going on in the quotation, but *how that quotation proves your point about your topic*.
5. **Create images.**
 1. Art supplies are available.
 2. Sketch out main images on separate pieces of paper, which you can attach to your main poster.
 3. Maybe some members sketch the designs and others color them in.
6. **Put it all together.**
 1. Combine pictures, quotations, and explanations on the main poster sheet, along with a title and whatever graphic designs will link it all together.
 2. Make sure all names are on the back.
7. **Turn it in on Thursday.**