

11th grade Honors Summer Reading

Task: You must read the novels *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and *Catcher in the Rye* JD Salinger and complete the accompanying worksheets and essay prompt. Worksheets and literature responses are due on the same day. You will be tested on *Of Mice and Men* and *Catcher in the Rye* on Monday, September 18th. If you need a suggestion for summer reading, feel free to contact Mrs. Manne at mannecvsr@gmail.com. Make sure to state who you are and what type of books you enjoy reading.

Due Date: Monday, September 11th

After reading *Catcher in the Rye*, answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. Explain a character's problem and then offer your character advice on how to solve his/her problem.
2. Select a character from the story who is in conflict with himself or with society. Analyze the conflict and discuss the moral and ethical implications for both the individual and the society. *Do not summarize the plot.*
3. Identify the theme(s) in the novel. Give two examples of how the author presents the theme. How does this theme relate to today's society?
4. Pick one character and explain why you would/would not like to have him/her as a friend.
5. If you could enter the story and become part of it, at which point would you enter? What events would you change and how would this alter the outcome of the story?

Essay Prompt: Choose 1 of the following essay topics to write about.

Choose one of the prompts below and write a five paragraph essay. Do not consult outside sources for this essay. Stay off the internet. Remember the plagiarism policy.

1. Many novels and plays focus on individuals involved in a struggle to find themselves or to seek a purpose in life. Sometimes the effort pays off; sometimes it doesn't. Focusing on Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, write an essay in which you **explain Holden's search or struggle throughout the novel, assess to what extent it succeeds, and analyze how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.**
2. Salinger weaves a variety of symbols into *The Catcher in the Rye*, including (but not limited to) the red hunting hat, the ducks in Central Park, and Allie's mitt. **Select and analyze one symbol that Salinger uses in the book. Explain how Salinger develops this object as a symbol throughout the story.** Discuss the symbol's meaning and significance and explore its contributions to the overall message of the novel.
3. Critic David D. Galloway said, "Wherever Holden turns, his craving for truth seems to be frustrated by the phoniness of the world." **Analyze Holden's use of the word "phony".** What does the word mean in the context of the book, and does Holden offer any alternative to phoniness? Is Holden himself guilty of being a phony? How does Salinger want readers to judge ideas about phoniness?

4. Consider Holden's ideas about childhood and adulthood. ***Are childhood and adulthood as separate as Holden thinks they are? If so, which category would he fit in?***

5. *The Catcher in The Rye* is written with cyclical plot where we do not fully understand Holden's situation until we reach the end and reevaluate the beginning. ***In a well-written essay, discuss how Holden reveals himself.*** Be sure to explain the clues he gives as the story unfolds.

Of Mice & Men

Directions: Complete the following 2 graphic organizers to complete the summer reading assignment for this novel.

Symbolism: Defining the Characters

A symbol is an object or action that stands for something else. After finishing Section 4, you have learned a great deal about each of the character's personalities. In this assignment, demonstrate your understanding of one character through the use of symbolism (for example, choose an object that represents one aspect of your character). This activity asks you to apply your knowledge of symbolism and of the story.

Directions: Follow the steps below.

Step 1: Choose a character from the novel and write his/her name here: _____

Step 2: Consider this character's personality and behavior. Which trait do you feel is the most important one? Write it here:

Step 3: Choose an object that represents the personality trait described above. Think outside the box. What object will you use to symbolize your character? Write it here:

Step 4: In the space below, describe how your object represents the character's personality trait. You may use note form or use complete sentences. Write your explanation here:

Thematic Analysis: Dreams

A theme is a general concept or idea, such as love, justice, or sorrow. One way to help you think of themes is to complete the following sentence: “This is a book about _____.” One of the major themes in *Of Mice and Men* is the elusiveness of dreams; several characters’ hopes have been dashed by the end of Section 5.

Directions: Identify the dream of each of the following characters, and explain how that dream is destroyed. Explain what you can learn from this at the bottom of the page.

George and Lennie
Dream:
How it dies:
Crooks
Dream:
How it dies:
Candy
Dream:
How it dies:
Curley's Wife
Dream:
How it dies:

Lessons Learned

What message is the author giving the readers? Will anyone's dream come to fruition? How do you feel after examining this rather depressing theme?