

Background Information

<p>1848: The California Gold Rush</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Migration (movement of people) from East USA and Europe to California, on the West Coast of America.	<p>1850-1914: Mass Migration to USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- People, mainly from Europe, came to escape poverty and/or political oppression. America was seen as 'the home of the free' and a land of opportunity.
<p>1862: Transcontinental railway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provided cheap and fast transport connecting east and west coasts.	<p>1865: Emancipation of slaves and abolition of slavery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Many slaves became 'sharecroppers': farmers who farmed someone else's land in return for some of the goods.
<p>1902: John Steinbeck born</p> <p>He was born in Salinas, California, which was becoming known as 'the salad bowl' as it produced so many salad products.</p>	<p>1914-1918: First World War</p>
<p>1920: Women are given the vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- More women workers- Women are becoming more economically independent	<p>1920s: The Roaring Twenties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Years of prosperity- American products e.g. Ford cars- Entertainment industries take off e.g. movies and jazz music

<p>1924: Successful Salinas Salinas is the richest city in America, based on the lettuce crop which is sent over USA using trains.</p>	<p>1929: The Wall Street Crash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panic over stocks and shares which mean people lose money and American companies become bankrupt.
<p>1930s: The Great Depression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inequality increases as 40% of Americans live below the poverty line - Farmers, black people and immigrant workers are hit the hardest as their bosses go bankrupt 	<p>1932: Poverty Arrives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20% of small farmers lost their farms. They could not repay their loans because the price of agricultural goods had dropped so significantly. - 'The Hobo' becomes a figure of American legend. 2 million unemployed, travelling the railroads looking for work.
<p>1933: New President Roosevelt becomes president and introduces 'The New Deal'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides food and clothing, schools and employment through building of public services 	<p>1934: Drought The Dust Bowl</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drought has ruined large areas of land and farmers are forced to abandon their land. - 400,000 move to California to find work there
<p>1935-7 Government loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roosevelt's government lend money to small farmers to help them buy land - They introduce labour camps for migrant farm workers 	<p>1936: Workers Unite Salinas Lettuce Strike Unions form to ask for higher wages</p>
<p>1937: <i>Of Mice and Men</i> is published</p>	<p>1939: Fame for Steinbeck Steinbeck published <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is about migrant workers from the Dust Bowl who go to work in the vineyards of California.

Takeaway Homework

Mem

The chilli rating suggests the difficulty or challenge. Over the course of the book, you should attempt at least one 'flaming hot' task!

1. Why is George and Lennie's dream so important to them?

Use any key terms you have learned, make it informative and remember to quote from the book.....



2. Describe how different characters and incidents change the atmosphere in the bunkhouse

Write about:

- *George's suspicions about the bunkhouse beds*
- *The ranch owner questioning George and Lennie's late arrival*
- *The killing of Candy's dog*
- *Curley's attack on Lennie*



3. Write 3 Tweets that could be from one of the characters about events in the book

No more than 140 characters (letters, symbols or spaces)) per tweet; use #'s for key words and they must be informative....



4. Create a mood board about The American Dream

Use different sources such as the internet and books to find

- *Pictures, quotes and facts*

about this idea that led so many people to seek a better future.....

5. Discuss the relationship of George and Lennie.

Write about:

- *Their travelling and working together*
- *How they relate to other characters in the novel*
- *Their dream*
- *Incidents that occur on the ranch involving them both*
- *Lennie's death*

6. Write about the importance of the different places in 'Of Mice and Men'.

Remember to link the settings to the themes. Explain how they are important and what they represent.....

7. Look at the various examples of discrimination in Of Mice and Men

- *How does discrimination affect different characters?*
- *How do characters respond to discrimination?*
- *How does it affect their lives, and the outcome of the story?*

8. How does Steinbeck portray friendship in Of Mice and Men?

- *How does its presence or absence affect different characters, in their actions and in their relationships?*
- *What does it require of people?*
- *What does it offer them in return?*



9. What is the importance of dreams in *Of Mice and Men*?

What role do they play in people's lives? How do people use dreams, and how do various characters' dreams affect them?

10. Many of the characters in *Of Mice and Men* seem lonely

Why are various characters lonely, and how does it affect them?

11. Think about different characters in *Of Mice and Men*, and the power that they have

- *What different kinds of power do different characters have?*

- *Where does it come from?*

- *What do they do with it? How does it help them, or hurt them?*

12. Create a poster advertising for workers for the ranch in Soledad.

Think about the layout and what details you would need to include. You must include information about what you expect from the workers as well as what will be provided for them.....

13. Create a newspaper front page for either Lennie or Curley's wife's death.

Think about the headline, layout and what details you would need to include. You must interview at least one character in your article and include a picture.....

14. Consider the many examples of foreshadowing (predicting/mirroring) in *Of Mice and Men*.

Which important actions and plot points are foretold?

- *How do these important events differ from the events that happen before them?*

- *How does foreshadowing help us to understand the important turning points in the book?*

E.g. The death of Curley's dog mirrors and predicts the death of Lennie.

Both are shot out of kindness, one to prevent further suffering, the other to prevent him causing further suffering.



15. Imagine you are going to teach a revision lesson on one of the themes from the book.

Complete a lesson plan to include a starter and main activity.....



16. Choose one of the following themes from the book to write an essay about. Give examples of how the theme develops throughout the book and how it affects the characters



- **Human fragility - humanity is small and fragile in comparison to the forces that control our lives**
- **Dreams and reality - many of the characters have dreams. Do they drive the characters in a positive way or lead to negative behaviour?**
- **Pessimism or optimism? Is of Mice and Men a pessimistic book or an optimistic one? Are any of the main events entirely pessimistic or entirely optimistic?**
- **Protest and racial prejudice. The novel protests against racial discrimination, the treatment of old age and disability, and the plight of the farm workers who never really see the benefit of their labour. Do you agree? What evidence can you find within the novel?**
- **Loneliness. Is everyone in the book lonely? Are they all affected by loneliness in the same way?**
- **Relationships. All relationships in the book end badly. Do you agree? Look at three relationships within the book and provide evidence for your decision.**