

## Of Mice and Men – Knowledge Organiser

Spellings / Vocabulary			Punctuation		Grammar	
Word	Definition	Example	Type	Example	Type	Example
Isolation	The process or fact of isolating or being isolated. (Being alone / apart from others.	Curley's wife felt a sense of isolation as her husband did not like her talking to others on the ranch.	Listing comma	He went to the shops to buy milk, bread, eggs and flour.	Verb	She <b>is</b> here. He <b>jumped</b> .
Racism	Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone based on the belief that one's own race is superior.	Crooks was subjected to racism. He believed that people didn't listen to him as he was "just a nigger talkin'."	Parenthetic comma	Steinbeck's novel, Of Mice and Men, shows the harsh reality of life in the 1930s.	Modal verbs	Give a degree of certainty about an action e.g. <b>might, may, could, would, should, will</b>
Segregation	The action or state of setting someone or something apart from others.	Crooks feels separated from the other workers. "I ain't wanted in the bunkhouse, and you ain't wanted in my room."	Subordinating comma	As the broccoli was covered in cheese, Emily refused to eat it.	Auxiliary verbs	Help to determine tense. e.g. I <b>am</b> going. I <b>had</b> gone. I <b>was</b> going.
Migrant	A person who moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions.	George and Lennie are migrant workers. They move from place to place to find work. Usually, migrants would travel alone.	Parenthesis	George (accompanied by Lennie) moved quickly through the bushes. George - accompanied by Lennie - moved quickly through the bushes.	Informal tone	<b>Hiya</b> , how have you been <b>lately</b> ?
Cyclical	Occurring in cycles; recurrent.	The structure of OMAM is cyclical. There is a sense of things happening in an order then repeated giving the impression that things are inevitable.	Ellipsis	So...what happened?	Formal tone	You are <b>cordially invited</b> to attend the wedding.
Hierarchy	A system in which members of an organisation or society are ranked according to relative status or authority.	Curley's father is at the top of the hierarchy as he is the boss of the ranch.	<b>Terminology</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Example</b>	
Loneliness	Sadness because one has no friends or company.	Curley's wife feels a sense of loneliness as she is not allowed to have friends and has no female company on the ranch.	Metaphor	A figure of speech, which is not literal.	My aunt is a diamond.	
American Dream	The ideal by which equality of opportunity is available to any American, allowing the highest aspirations and goals to be achieved.	George and Lennie's dream of owning a farm and living off the "fatta the lan" symbolizes this dream.	Animal Imagery	Whereby animal attributes are imposed upon non-animal objects and humans.	"He walked heavily, dragging his feet a little, like a bear drags his paws."	
			Foreshadowing	To give an indication of what is to come.	We get a hint of the final death through the killing of the mouse and puppy.	
Great Depression	A long and severe recession in an economy or market.	In October 1929, millions of dollars were wiped out in the Wall Street Crash. This led to the Great Depression, which crippled the country between 1930 and 1936.	Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.	Lennie's puppy represents the victory of the strong over the weak. Lennie kills the puppy as he fails to recognise his own strength.	
The Dustbowl	An area of land where vegetation has been lost and soil reduced to dust and eroded, especially because of drought or unsuitable farming practice.	The dustbowl was a key reason why workers had to move so regularly due to land being dry and them not being able to farm there.	Semantic field	A group of words, which relate to a common theme or motif.	Semantic field: Death Murder, suicide, weapon, poison.	

<p><b>Key Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. Although his family was wealthy, he was interested in the lives of the farm labourers and spent time working with them. He used his experiences as material for his writing.</li> <li>On October 29 1929, millions of dollars were wiped out in the Wall Street Crash. It led to the People losing their life savings and a third of America's population became unemployed.</li> <li>A series of droughts in southern mid-western states like Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas led to failed harvests and dried-up land. Farmers were forced to move off their land: they could not repay the bank-loans which had helped buy the farms and had to sell what they owned to pay their debts.</li> <li>Racism/sexism were common, especially in Southern states due to economic climate, &amp; history of slavery.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Linking Themes and Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steinbeck encourages us to empathise with <b>the plight of migrant workers</b> during the <b>Great Depression</b>.</li> <li><b>The American Dream</b> is shown to be impossible: <b>reality</b> defeats <b>idealism</b>.</li> <li>The novella explores the human need for <b>companionship</b> and the tragedy of <b>loneliness</b>.</li> <li>Steinbeck reveals the <b>predatory nature of mankind</b>: the <b>powerless</b> are targeted by the <b>powerful</b>.</li> <li>Steinbeck explores the tension between the <b>inevitability of fate</b> and the <b>fragility of human dreams</b>.</li> <li>Steinbeck explores <b>the contrasts of Nature Vs Man</b>.</li> <li>The novella is an <b>indictment</b> of the way <b>society</b> treats the <b>dispossessed</b>.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Reading Success Criteria - PEARL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant points are clearly identified, including summary and synthesis of information from different sources and commentary incorporates apt textual reference and quotation to support ideas.</li> <li>Precision in the selection and application of textual reference to the point being made.</li> <li>Different layers of meaning are identified with detailed exploration of them some beginning to develop an interpretation</li> <li>An analytic and evaluative comment on how viewpoint is established and an appreciation of how devices achieve the effects that they do.</li> <li>Evaluation of the extent to which structural choices support the writer's theme or purpose.</li> <li>Perceptive analysis of how language is used and some appreciation of how language choices contribute to the effect on the reader.</li> <li>Comments develop an interpretation and begin to prove the text.</li> <li>The ability to set texts in context and see how texts are influential.</li> <li>Successfully comparing cross reference aspects of text.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Writing a review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use devices/language appropriate to purpose and audience</li> <li>your point of view and who you are is clear</li> <li>ideas are developed in a variety of ways</li> <li>paragraphs are used to effectively structure ideas</li> <li>vocabulary is used appropriately and adventurously</li> <li>a range of sentence structures are used for effect</li> <li>a range of punctuation is used accurately and for effect</li> <li>spelling is mostly correct</li> <li>control of tense and agreement is secure</li> <li>Work is technically accurate and proof read thoroughly</li> <li>GAP is followed throughout the piece of writing.</li> <li>your opinion, as well as others, is included to persuade the reader.</li> </ul>
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Key Characters		Key themes and Context	Key Quotations
George	frustrated, devoted, a dreamer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steinbeck encourages us to empathise with <b>the plight of migrant workers</b> during the <b>Great Depression</b>.</li> <li><b>The American Dream</b> is shown to be impossible: <b>reality</b> defeats <b>idealism</b>.</li> <li>The novella explores the human need for <b>companionship</b> and the tragedy of <b>loneliness</b>.</li> <li>Steinbeck reveals the <b>predatory nature of mankind</b>: the <b>powerless</b> are targeted by the <b>powerful</b>.</li> <li>Steinbeck explores the tension between the <b>inevitability of fate</b> and the <b>fragility of human dreams</b>.</li> <li>Steinbeck explores <b>the contrasts of Nature Vs Man</b>.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>George – C1: “Guys like us...that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don’t belong no place...”</li> <li>Lennie – C1: “Slowly, like a terrier who doesn’t want to bring a ball to its master, Lennie approached, drew back, approached again.”</li> <li>Slim – C2: “Aint many guys travel around together, he mused. I don’t know why. Maybe ever’body in the whole damn world is scared of each other.”</li> <li>Candy – C3: “I ought to of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn’t of ought to let no stranger shoot my dog.”</li> <li>George – C3: “We wouldn’t ask nobody if we could. Jus’ say, ‘We’ll go to her,’ an’ we would”.</li> <li>Crooks – C4: “Ever’body wants a little piece of lan’. I read plenty of books out here. Nobody never gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land.”</li> <li>Crooks – C4: “A guy needs somebody to be near him. He whined, a guy goes nuts if he aint got nobody”.</li> <li>Curley’s wife – C5: And the meanness and the plannings and the discontent and the ache for attention were all gone from her face. She was very pretty and simple, and her face was sweet and young.”</li> <li>Chapter 6 – A silent head and beak lanced down and plucked it out by the head, and the beak swallowed the little snake while its tail waved frantically.</li> </ul>
Lennie	childlike, unassuming, physically powerful		
Candy	unloved, an outcast, aging		
Curley	insecure, unmerciful, jealous		
Curley’s wife	a seductive temptress, objectified, lonely, nameless		
Crooks	cynical, proud, isolated		
Slim	compassionate, wise, respected		
Carlson	heartless, insensitive		