



## WEEK ONE

# The World of the Novel

*Of Mice and Men* · Chapters 1 & 2



## 1 · FIRST IMPRESSIONS

*Read Chapters 1 and 2. Read the opening paragraph aloud before you begin — Steinbeck wrote it to be heard.*

## TELL IT BACK · YOUR NARRATION

*With the book closed, tell me back what you read. Three to six sentences, in your own words. If you can't remember something, skip it — what you forget is telling us something too.*

## FIND IT · A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

*Find it* — a question you could answer by looking at the book — something real on the page that caught your attention.

*A good Find-it question is about something that seems to matter — a moment, an image, or a word worth noticing. Not what a character is wearing (unless the clothes are telling you something).*

- ✓ What is George holding when we first see him, and what does he do with it?
- ✗ What color are Lennie's shoes?

*Your turn — write one Find-it question about Chapters 1 & 2.*

## SIT WITH THIS

*After you write your own narration, open the Strong and Weak Example Narrations in In the Margin. Read them. Hold yours beside them. Nothing to submit — this is for your own noticing.*



Sit with these after your first reading. Upload your answers in Google Classroom — one paragraph for each.

- ❖ *George and Lennie's relationship is established through what they don't say. What do you understand about them before anyone explains anything?*

- ❖ *Steinbeck describes the land before he introduces a single person. What kind of world is it?*

#### QUESTIONS TO SIT WITH

- *What was easy about writing your narration? What was hard? Where did your memory skip?*
- *What do you notice about how Steinbeck opens the book — before any people appear?*
- *Look again at the dream speech. Why does George tell it the same way every time?*

#### THROUGH THE EXISTENTIAL LENS

*Everyone has something they hope for. What is one thing George and Lennie hope for in these chapters — and what is one thing you hope for? What helps a person keep going when a dream is hard to reach?*

#### THIS WEEK'S IMAGE

**Dorothea Lange · *Migrant Mother* · 1936**

*Open the image in In the Margin. Look for sixty full seconds before reading anything about it. Same year as this novel. Same California. Hold it beside Chapter 1.*

#### WHAT I NOTICED

**Diction** — the words an author chooses, and the weight each one carries.

**WHY IT MATTERS**

Denotation is a word's dictionary definition. Connotation is the feeling the word carries. Two words can share a definition but feel completely different.

**ex.** Thin and gaunt both describe someone skinny — but **gaunt** feels harsher, more worn. Steinbeck chooses for both meanings at once.

**FEATURED PASSAGE · THE OPENING DESCRIPTION**

*Penguin edition, p. 1 — the first full paragraph, from "A few miles south" through "evening of the year." Return to this passage as you work through the three words below.*

**THREE WORDS FROM THE OPENING PARAGRAPH**

| WORD                                  | DENOTATION                             | CONNOTATION                                                                    | WHY THE AUTHOR CHOSE IT                                           |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>twinkling</i><br><i>an example</i> | shining with a soft, flickering light. | gentle, playful, almost magical — the kind of light that feels alive and good. | to make the pool feel alive and safe before the story turns hard. |
| <i>mottled</i><br><i>your turn</i>    |                                        |                                                                                |                                                                   |
| <i>debris</i><br><i>your turn</i>     |                                        |                                                                                |                                                                   |

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*Charlotte Mason called it a commonplace book — a place to hold sentences worth saving. From Chapters 1 & 2, choose one to three lines you want to keep. Copy each one exactly, then add a short note about why it matters to you.*

## KEEP 1 · THE LINE

## KEEP 1 · WHY IT MATTERS

❖ *If you want to keep more than one, use a separate page in your notebook. One Keep is the minimum — three is plenty.*



## 5 · THE WEEK'S RHYTHM

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*From printing this handout to turning in your work.*

- ☐ **Print this handout** — keep it with you for the week.
- ☐ **Watch the lesson video** — find it in the Hub.
- ☐ **Enter the Great Conversation** — sit with this week's image, music, or related work in the Hub.
- ☐ **Compare your narration** — read the Strong and Weak Example Narrations in In the Margin and hold yours beside them.
- ☐ **Capstone work** — return to your Following the Thread assignment and add what you noticed this week.
- ☐ **Turn in your work** — upload to Google Classroom. Photos or scans of each section. No need to retype.