


Friendship &  
Loneliness  
Through *Of Mice*  
& *Men*

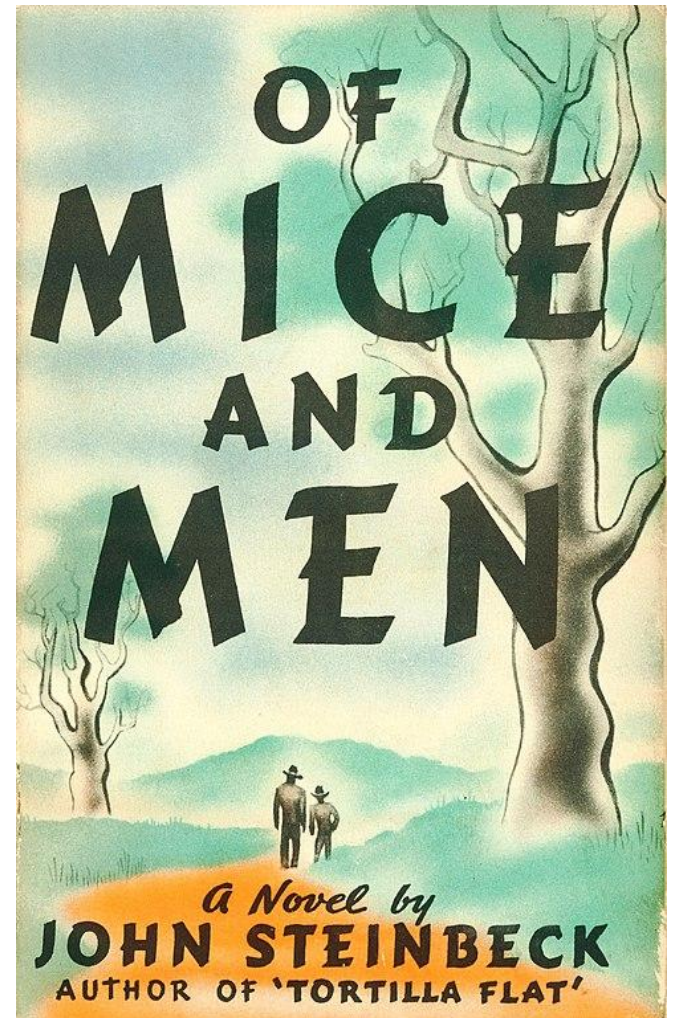
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John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* follows the characters George and Lennie who travel miles on foot to seek employment at a ranch after losing their previous job. George, being an intelligent but small man, leads the way and is responsible for taking care of Lennie, a giant but mentally retarded man - whose inability to learn or control his emotional and physical strength always gets them into trouble and subsequently fired from jobs.

Teaches students a valuable lesson about compassion and companionship.

- It deals with racism; the character named Crooks is black. His boss, Curly, always makes crude comments directing at his race and due to him being black, Crooks seems to keep his guard up making him seem tough especially around George and Lennie.
- The book also conveys the message of not judging a book by its cover. Lennie seems harmful due to his enormous size, but he is a sweetheart. He has a child-like mind and possesses the innocence and sweetness of a child so that teaches the lesson of not judging a person based on their appearance.



# Introducing the Unit

For young adults, it is vital for them to understand how friendship and loneliness can affect a person. As human beings, we go through many hardships in life that help us learn and grow to become better human beings.

To start off, I would have students write a brief response on what friendship and loneliness mean to them.

- Discuss after

I will then like to show them a *Family Guy* episode in which the characters portray the story of the book *Of Mice and Men* along with other young adult classics.

- Just going to show the beginning because the episode does spoil the ending of the book.

I would also like to provide students with a vocabulary list containing important words from the book.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Vg16LWB\\_5Fs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Vg16LWB_5Fs)



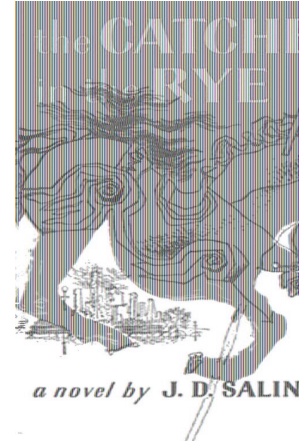
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=aM8hZy3lgBQ>



<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6190800/>

# Similar Works

- *The Outsiders* by S.E Hinton
- *No One Here is Lonely* by Sarah Everett
- *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D Salinger
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B White



# Working with the Text



I would have students read about 10-15 pages and the next time I see them, we will have a discussion on the pages they were supposed to read. Assuming the students do the reading, the discussion would allow students to share their thoughts and opinions on what they have read.

I do not plan to quiz the students on the reading but if it becomes clear that they are not doing the reading, I will simply quiz on parts they were supposed to read prior to class.

- I would have students do character analysis every now and then to help them keep track of character development.
- I would also have students discover themes other than friendship and loneliness.

# Beyond the Text

I would like to inform the students about the importance of friendship. There are many ways to illustrate how important friendships can be; I plan to have students do some research of their own and I would have them draft a short essay

Since loneliness is also a prominent theme of the book, I would have students make illustrations of what loneliness would either look or feel like.

I would also have students write a final essay on the book; this would give us an opportunity to discuss writing techniques.

- Discussing what makes a strong thesis statement
- Integrating



# Concluding the Unit

To conclude, I would like students to have a full discussion of the book. The discussion would be in the form of a Socratic Seminar

Complex questions

- Character Development
- Character Motivation
- Importance of Setting (ex. What does the farm that George and Lennie are working at represent and why it is significant to the plot)





Thank You !

