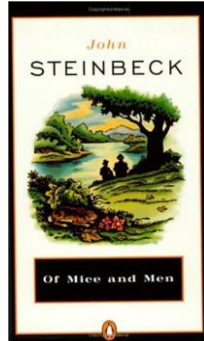


## Pre-AP English II Summer Reading



“I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you...”  
-John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*

Welcome to Pre-AP English II! This summer, you will have the great pleasure of reading John Steinbeck’s classic, *Of Mice and Men*. Although short, this 1937 novella, set during the American Great Depression, is loaded with complex characters and themes. As you read, consider how each character drives the themes of the piece. (\*WARNING: This novella contains strong language that may be offensive to readers. Please consider the time period and the characters who use this language and why).

### The Assignment

After you have read the novella, discuss how each of the themes listed below is addressed in the story. Be specific with your responses and be sure to cite page numbers in your answers.

*Example:*

#### **Theme: Friendship**

The kind of life these men lead, moving all over the country, never knowing anyone very long, and having very little to call their own, is intensely lonely. Even if Lennie is not very bright, he still listens to George, and he remains the one constant in George's transient life. For this George is grateful. Their friendship is evident when Lenny says, “I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you...” (Chapter 1, p. 14).

Use the same format for the following themes:

**Dreams, Hopes, and Plans**

**Isolation**

**Justice**

**Violence**

**Prejudice**

**Weakness**

**Courage**

**Power**

**Women’s Rights**

**Kindness/Cruelty**