

Dallas Christian

English I Summer Reading 2017

About your teacher: I'm Mrs. Stevenson and this is my third year at Dallas Christian. My husband and I have a 15-month-old son, Beckett, and a baby girl due in September of this year! Other than spending time with my family, I love music and currently serve on the worship team at my church. I look forward to meeting y'all and getting to know you in the upcoming school year.

Note for Parents (from CommonSenseMedia.org): Parents need to know that *Of Mice and Men*, often required reading in middle school or high school, is one of the most affecting portraits of America during the Great Depression. It offers a glimpse of men attempting to hold onto their dreams of a better life when the odds of their success are miniscule. Families can talk about...

- The values of friendship and loyalty and how they can be tested in times of economic hardship.
- As a child, Lennie suffered some kind brain injury that impeded his intellectual development. How has society's treatment of the mentally disabled changed over the decades?
- Lennie and George dream of owning a farm of their own, one where Lennie can take care of the rabbits. What kinds of dreams of the future do people have today? What are some of the obstacles they might encounter in trying to achieve them?

ASSIGNMENT:

Over the summer you will need to read *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and complete the corresponding assignment. The assignment is intended to guide your reading and focus your thoughts in preparation for the discussions, summer reading test and writing assignments you will engage in when you return in August. **The assignment is due on the first day of school.**

Make sure you read all of the assignment directions and are clear on all parts. It's up to you to email me with any questions, and I strongly suggest you ask me if you have any confusion. Don't wait until August to begin this assignment. And please, no plagiarism or copied material from the Internet. Bring your book and printed journal assignment on the first day of school. Don't forget them.

Your summer reading assignment is to annotate the text and keep a dialectical journal as you read. Please see the annotation and dialectical journal instructions on page 2 for more information. You should:

- **annotate 10 or more passages in the text, and**
- **respond with 8 or more entries in your dialectical journal.**

***Be prepared to take a test over *Of Mice and Men* upon your return to school.**

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stevenson
lstevenson@dallaschristian.com

Annotation and Dialectical Journal Instructions

One way to read actively is to annotate the text. To annotate a book, you simply choose what you think is important (or what you like) and underline/highlight, and note it in the margin of the book. Annotate as you read *Of Mice and Men*. Reading journals, or dialectical journals, record your reaction to the book you are reading; therefore, you determine what you want to highlight/underline, and make note of in the margins of the book. In other words, you must write in the book! You may note what a character says or does, or you may note something about the author's writing.

Your goal is to gather quotes that catch your attention and then to respond to the quotes by analyzing them. You may respond to ideas by writing about a person, a setting, an event, or a theme in the text. Why did the quote pop out to you? You may choose quotes that you find particularly insightful or interesting or funny. Is something unusual or quirky?

You will do your journal over *Of Mice and Men* using quotes from throughout the book. You should title your journal: **Reading Journal for *Of Mice and Men*. It must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt font.** You will need to locate 8 quotes from the text and write a response explaining the importance of that particular quote.

Example Dialectical Journal Entry:

Quote from Text: Can be quotes about a character, an event or a scene	Commentary: Thoughts, comments, ideas, connections, understandings, recognition of literary devices
1. "George went on. 'With us it ain't like that. We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that [cares] about us... If them other guys gets in jail they can rot... But not us.' Lennie broke in. 'But not us! An why? Because I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you and that's why.'" (14)	George and Lennie are talking about how they are different from the other guys who work in the fields. The biggest difference is that they have someone to care about them. They are not alone. Lennie and George have each other. They have someone that cares about and looks after them, and this separates them from the masses of lonely men. Even though George says that he would be better off without Lennie, he knows this isn't true because he would be suffering from the worse human condition: loneliness.

Possible ways to begin your commentary (analysis):

I wonder if this means....

I don't understand this because....

I like/dislike this idea because...

I agree with this idea because...

This part is confusing because...

This idea makes me feel...

This idea reminds me of the character _____ in the story _____.

I didn't expect the author to say this because...

The idea reminds me of...

This quote is particularly effective/thought-provoking/ depressing/unusual because...

This makes me think that _____ will happen later.