

Name:

Mr. Frenzel

Summer Reading Cover Sheet: 8th Grade

Project 1: Reading Of Mice and Men

Step One: Read Of Mice and Men and create a story graph with at least 12 points. Be sure to properly label the inciting incident, rising action, climax, and falling action.

Step Two: Create a list of major characters. For each major character, write one or two sentences talking about why that character is important.

Step Three: Create character webs for George, Lennie, and one other character of your choosing. Each web must include: four characteristics, four quotes from the book (one that shows each characteristic), and an explanation of how each quote you've chosen shows the characteristic that it is paired with.

Step Four: Choose **ONE** theme: independence, control/lack of control, desire, or a theme of your choice. Develop a well-organized essay about that theme using **three** examples from Of Mice and Men. Be sure to include exact quotes from the book with thorough explanations to support your thesis. Your essay should include **both** introduction and conclusion paragraphs. **Honors:** Your essay must contain **FOUR** examples.

Project 2: Independent Reading

Step One: Choose a book of your choice to read. Before reading the book, complete part one of the "Thoughtful Independent Reader" handout.

Step Two: After reading the book complete the rest of the "Thoughtful Independent Reader" handout.

Step Three: Choose a character from the book that you've chosen. It does not have to be the main character. Decide on three characteristics that your chosen character has. Develop a well written essay that discusses how the character you have chosen shows these characteristics. The essay should include an introduction and a conclusion. Each essay must include multiple quotes from the story to support your writing.

Step Four: On a standard sheet of computer paper (or a piece of oak tag cut to this size) create an alternative book cover for the book you have chosen to read. The book cover should include the title and author of the book that you've read, and it **must not** be a simple recreation of any other book covers the book that you have chosen has had. Extra credit will be awarded for the top three book covers.

Honors: Your essay must contain **FOUR** characteristics.

Project 3: Non-Fiction Research and Writing

Step One: Research one of the following Presidents. Use **at least** two good sources. Wikipedia **IS NOT** an acceptable source.

Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S Grant, Rutherford B Hayes, James Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush

Step Two: Write a 1 and a half to 2 page biography of your chosen president. Be sure to include your sources at the end of your paper.

Extra Credit: Create a poster on a half sheet of oak tag for your chosen President. Include pictures and the most important information about them.

Name:

Date:

Grade:

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Thoughtful Independent Reader Guide

Part One: Before Reading

1. Do I prefer fiction or non-fiction? Why do I prefer one over the other?
2. What kind of stories do I like to read? Do I like specific genres (types of stories) like mysteries, comedies, etc.? Why am I drawn to these types of stories?
3. What kind of characters do I like? Why do I like these characters?
4. What are some specific stories I've read that I've enjoyed? Why did I like those stories?
5. What are some stories that I've read that I haven't enjoyed? Why did I not like those stories?
6. What book am I about to read? Who is it by?
7. How did I learn about this book?
8. Why am I choosing to read this book?
9. What am I hoping will happen in this book?

Part Two: After Reading

The Book at a Glance

1. Who was the main character in this book?
2. What was the major conflict in this book? How was it resolved?
3. What was the most important part of the book? Why?
4. Write a brief summary of this book.

Author's Purpose

1. Why do I think the author wrote this book?
2. What were some moods that the author created in this book? How did the author create these feelings?
3. How did the author create tension in this book?

Making Connections

1. What other stories have I read that are similar to this book? How are those stories similar to this book? How are they different?
2. How can I connect this book to my life? Have I experienced similar events? Have I known similar people? Is there a message from this book that I can apply to my life?

Opinion

1. Write a brief review. What parts of this book did I enjoy? Why did I enjoy these parts? What parts did I not enjoy? Why did I not like these parts? Would I recommend this book to someone else? Why or why not?
2. Change one moment in the book. What change do I make? How does this change affect the book as a whole?
3. **Extra Credit** Take the time to rewrite a scene in the book.