

Summer Foundations

*A six-week introduction to literary study, through Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men**

GRADES	LENGTH	PACE	APPROACH	FORMAT
8–11 • adv. 7th	6 Weeks	1 lesson / week	Narration-first	Self-paced or Live

THE METHOD — FIND • FOLLOW • FRAME

Find it. Notice

The moment that stops you — a line, an image, a choice.

Follow it. Trace

The thread through the book — where it returns, how it deepens.

Frame it. Say it well

Out loud in narration first, then in a clear written piece.

THE SIX WEEKS — THEME & CAPSTONE STEP

<i>Week 1</i>	The World of the Novel	Capstone • Choose Your Thread — pick a character + a Relation Study.
<i>Week 2</i>	Mercy and Old Age	Capstone • A Letter from Your Character.
<i>Week 3</i>	Outcasts and Belonging	Capstone • Freedom & the Choices We Make.
<i>Week 4</i>	Endings	Capstone • Rewrite the Scene from your character's view.
<i>Week 5</i>	Second Sight	Capstone • A Haiku for Your Character (Camus & Sartre join us).
<i>Week 6</i>	What We Carry	Capstone • Arrival — gather the summer into one work.

SKILLS BUILT

- Narration that grows into written argument
- Close reading — finding what matters on the page
- Tracing a theme across a whole novel
- Framing an idea in clear, honest prose
- The commonplace habit — keeping what's worth keeping
- Socratic discussion and attentive listening

WHAT STUDENTS PRODUCE

- A character followed all summer — letter, scene, haiku
- A Relation Study — sustained real-world attention work
- Discussion contributions, every week
- A gathered Capstone — the summer's work, made whole

TEXT

- Any edition of *Of Mice and Men* (not included)

STANDARDS, MAPPED TO THE METHOD — TEKS ENGLISH I–IV • COMMON CORE

FIND IT • NOTICE & GATHER

- **TEKS • Comprehension** — infer & conclude from text evidence
- **TEKS • Response** — support an interpretation with evidence
- **CCSS RL.9–10.1** — cite strong, thorough textual evidence

FOLLOW IT • TRACE THEME, CHARACTER & CRAFT

- **TEKS • Multiple Genres** — theme & character across a text
- **TEKS • Author's Craft** — how the author's choices shape meaning
- **CCSS RL.9–10.2 • 3** — theme development; character & plot

FRAME IT • DISCUSS & WRITE

- **TEKS • Oral Language** — narration & student-led discussion
- **TEKS • Composition** — writing process, ending in argument
- **CCSS SL.9–10.1 • W.9–10.1 • W.9–10.9** — discuss; argue from evidence

Six of the seven ELA strands in six weeks — Comprehension, Response, Multiple Genres, Author's Craft, Oral Language & Composition. Students also meet **Foundational Language Skills** throughout (a full novel; vocabulary in context • CCSS RL.9–10.4 • L.9–10.4). Only **Inquiry & Research** is left out — by design for a single-novel study.