DELIGHT & SAVOR

The Reading Room

LITERARY COMPANION



Of Mice and Men

John Steinbeck

HIGH SCHOOL / FREE WEEK ONE SAMPLE

Before you open the book

What you'll need

Use any complete edition and a notebook. The numbered sections follow the six scene breaks in the novel. On one day, read and tell back the scene. On another, return to one detail together. Keep a line or try the character study if you want to linger.

Before reading aloud

For high school families. The novel includes racial slurs, ableist language, sexual threats, and violence toward animals and people. Preview the reading before sharing it. Readers may paraphrase hurtful language or read a passage silently.

Your reading plan

Read the novel over four weeks. Spend the final two revisiting the river and following one character across the book.

01 By the River · Section 1

Inside this sample

Teach the first week in full. The next two pages are yours to read, discuss, and print.

By the River

Read & Narrate

Read from the first description of the pool to the night George and Lennie spend there. In editions with unnumbered sections, stop before the bunkhouse. Close the book. If you had been sitting across the river, what would you have seen George and Lennie do?

Find it

Find the moment Lennie looks at George and changes how he sits. What does he copy, down to the smallest movement?

Follow it

When George tells the story about the farm, which parts does Lennie already know? Why might he want to hear them again?

Frame it

Does George give Lennie something by telling this story? What might George receive in return?

Keep it

Choose one line you can still hear. Copy it with its page number. Circle the word you would stress if you read it aloud.

For the parent

A listener may call George both sharp and tender. Let the reader find a moment for each impression before deciding whether they fit together.

Choose your thread

Choose George or Lennie to follow, or leave a space for someone you meet next week. Record one gesture and your first impression of the person who makes it. Keep the page so you can change your mind later.

Try it aloud

Tell someone what the gesture looks like. Ask them what they think it means before sharing your own reading.

Try it in writing

Try a two-sentence claim. One reader might take Lennie’s imitation as affection. Another might see him looking for a rule to follow. Which reading does the next detail support?

Savor it

Read the farm conversation in two voices. Try the familiar lines once as a joke and once as a bedtime ritual. Where does the scene resist your choice?

Relations

Make a map of belonging. On a folded sheet, sketch the clearing, bunkhouse, and Crooks’s room as you meet them. Mark who may enter each place freely and who needs permission. At the end, choose one boundary that changed how you read a scene.

My notebook

Continue with the novel

The six-week companion follows the novella to its last conversation, then returns to the river to see what a second reading changes.

Family edition · $24

Open the complete Of Mice and Men companion on Payhip.

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