*Of Mice and Men* “Playlist” NAME:

**SECTION A: Select 1 and respond in full sentences.**

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| 1. You know the song “This Land Is Your Land,” written by Woody Guthrie in 1940. Look at annotations about the lyrics.  <https://genius.com/1261582> | How is Guthrie’s style and/or ideas similar to that/those of Steinbeck? |
| 2. Link to the Oakland Museum’s collection of Dorothea Lange, who took poignant photos during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression.  [Click link](http://collections.museumca.org/?q=category/2011-schema/art/dorothea-lange) | Pick one image to connect to *Of Mice and Men* and explain the link/similarity. |
| 3. Listen to the Woody Guthrie song “So Long, It’s Been Good to Know Yuh.”  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqiblXFlZuk> | What about the lyrics and/or music (beat, tempo, instruments, etc.) make this a potential “theme song” for Of Mice and Men? |

**SECTION B: Select 2 and respond in full sentences.**

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| 1. In his newspaper articles, Steinbeck himself wrote that farm owners “have found the law inadequate to their uses; and they have become so powerful that such charges as felonious assault, mayhem and inciting to riot, kidnaping [sic] and flogging cannot be brought against them in controlled courts” (Steinbeck, The Harvest Gypsies, p. 37). In other words, Steinbeck was writing about the mob justice and lawlessness of life on the ranch. | How is mob justice apparent in the book? |
| 2. One “journalist had once referred to [the novel’s] `two-syllable language as mean, hard, and sometimes as foul as [the characters'] semi-savage existence'” (Hayashi, p. 119). | Do you agree or disagree with that journalist? Why? |
| 3. In “*Of Mice and Men*: Actors in a Play,” author Elizabeth McMurray explores the reflexive, or circular idea that Curley’s wife says she had wanted to be an actress only very much to become one on the ranch. | In what ways is Curley’s wife an actress? Think about costume, make up, physical movement, line delivery… |
| 4. When the play version opened on Broadway in 1937, Steinbeck wrote to the actress portraying Curley’s wife: “…if you knew her, if you could ever break down the thousand little defenses she has built up, you would find a nice person, an honest person, and you would end up loving her. But such a thing can never happen.” | What is nice/honest/lovable about Curley’s wife? How/why is it impossible for Curley’s wife’s authentic self to emerge? |
| 5. Critics have talked about setting/plot/characters in relation to Edenic myth (the garden of paradise and Eve/Adam blowing it by biting from the apple of the forbidden Tree of Knowledge). | How does the novel seem to connect to the story of Eden/Adam/ Eve? |
| 6. The original title for the book was *Something that Happened.* | What’s your preference? Why? |

**SECTION C: Select 1 and respond in full sentences.**

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| 1. Select one other Steinbeck novel. Look up the summary on Amazon.   * *Travels with Charley in Search of America* * *The Grapes of Wrath* * *Tortilla Flat* * *East of Eden* | What makes you want to read it…or not? |
| 2. Some of Steinbeck’s writing brought attention to wealth inequality and hardships suffered during the Great Depression. Choose one of the more recent nonfiction books below that has brought attention to a societal issue. Look up the summary on Amazon.   * *Enrique’s Journey (immigration)* * *Dreamland (opioid crisis)* * *$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America (poverty)* * *Unfair: The New Science of Criminal Injustice (bias in the court system)* * *Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash (environmentalism)* | What makes you want to read it…or not? |