**Advanced American Literature Summer Reading Assignments**

Over the summer, you are expected to read *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. This is a requirement of Advanced American Literature. If at the start of the school year you do not have the summer reading complete, you will receive a zero for the assignment and will still be expected to take any assessments related to the novels.

***Of Mice and Men****:* Attached you will find topics on which you are expected to journal. This journal should be typed and clearly organized. A careful reading of the novel will ensure you have a thorough and meaningful analysis.

***The Jungle***: Attached you will find an OPTIONAL objective test review. This will not be collected for a grade. However, there will be an objective test on The Jungle at the start of the school year and you may have the opportunity to utilize the packet on the exam. Completing the review while reading will be beneficial to your success on the exam.

**Please note**: Success on these assignments depends upon you having carefully read the novels. If there is ANY evidence of plagiarism in your work, you will automatically receive a zero. Remember that changing someone’s words does NOT make them your own! It is still plagiarizing! Please do not be tempted into academic dishonesty. If you find additional information about the book that helps guide your understanding, give credit to those sources through correct MLA citation.

If you have any questions pertaining to summer reading assignments, please contact Mrs. McRobbie:

leslie\_mcrobbie@solanco.k12.pa.us

Advanced American Literature Summer Reading Assignment

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

**Task:** As you read the book, complete a minimum of 20 journal entries to discuss the following categories. For each entry, find a quote from the book with page citation and then analyze each quote to show how it displays the concept. You are required to submit your work as a neatly organized and typed document. Quote analysis should be 3-5 sentences in length.

1. **Alienation and Loneliness**: In his novel *Of Mice and Men*, Steinbeck depicts the essential loneliness of California ranch life in the 1930s. He illustrates how people are driven to find companionship.
2. George and Lennie
3. Candy
4. Crooks
5. Curley’s wife
6. **Reality vs. Idealism:** For the characters in this novel, the American Dream remains an unfulfilled dream.
7. The dream (what is it, how does it drive characters, etc)
8. The dream’s unrealistic aspects
9. George and Lennie’s attitude toward the dream
10. Candy’s attitude toward the dream
11. Crooks’ attitude toward the dream
12. **Class Conflict:** Steinbeck shows the physical and societal limitations placed on the lower working-class based on injustices and economical inequalities of the time period.
13. Physical limitations of characters and how that impacts class
14. Social injustices of the class system
15. Slim in relation to the other workers
16. **Race and Racism:** Steinbeck shows the harsh realities of being black in the 1930s in America through the utilization of harsh language relative to the time period as well as frequent prejudice shown by characters.
17. Crooks is more vulnerable than the other characters
18. Crooks’ hope for improvement is hindered by his race
19. Crooks is isolated by his skin color
20. **Symbols and motifs:** Steinbeck utilizes symbols and motifs to represent larger, more significant ideas that drive the novel.
21. Rabbits
22. The brush by the water
23. Bindles and beans
24. Solitaire
25. The dream farm

**Scoring: You will be scored according to completeness of the journal entries and thoroughness of the analysis**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*The Jungle* Advanced American Literature Summer Reading
Optional Objective Test Review

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| CHARACTERSJurgis Rudkus- Ona Lukoszaite- Elzbieta Lukoszaite (Teta Elzbieta)- Marija Berczynskas- Jonas- Antanas Rudkus (Dede Antanas)- Stanislovas, Kotrina, Vilimas, Nikalojus, Juozapas, Kristoforas- Antanas Rudkus (Little Antanas)- Tamoszius Kuszleika- Jokubas Szedvilas- The Widow Jukiene- Mike Scully- Phil Connor- Jack Duane- Madame Haupt-Freddie Jones-Buck Holloran and Bush Harper-Ostrinski- Tommy Hinds- Lucas- Nicholas Schliemann-  |

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| THEMES AND MOTIFSSociety and class- Suffering- Power- Visions of America- Poverty- Tradition- Language and Communication- Gender-  |