



Northwest Pennsylvania
Collegiate Academy
Summer Reading Assignment
for LA9 – 2018/2019



Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

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Dear Incoming Freshmen and Parents:

Each summer, students at Collegiate Academy have a summer reading assignment. Literacy is a key component in being successful in high school, and our summer reading assignment is designed to help students maintain—and even sharpen—the skills they already possess. Students should bring their typed annotations, original typed paragraphs (see formatting directions below) and his/her personal copy of *Of Mice and Men* on the first day of school. In order to earn the highest grade on the summer reading assignment, students should complete all of the following requirements carefully and completely.

This year's summer reading assignment for LA9 is based on John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men*. Published in 1937, the novella tells the story of George Milton and Lennie Small's lives as migrant farm workers in Depression-era California. The two men face many obstacles while trying to realize their own American Dream. We will continue our study of the novella into the beginning of the school year, so it is imperative that all reading is complete by then.

PART I: TEN ANNOTATIONS

When you read, it is important to annotate, or interact with the text. We all naturally have ideas, feelings, mental images, and questions; annotating is simply *showing* these ideas, feelings, mental images, questions, etc. Use sticky notes to mark significant passages/quotes in the text that you find particularly interesting or important while you are reading. You must then type those notes into Microsoft Word or another comparable word processing program. (Hint: Use Google Drive if you do not have Microsoft Word.)

During the first week of school, you will take a test based on *Of Mice and Men*, and you **WILL** be able to use your typed annotations during the test. Therefore, as you read, it is important that you record a minimum of ten annotations. These **annotations must be typed**. They may **NOT** be handwritten. They may **NOT** be summaries or analyses printed or copied from a website. If your annotations do not adhere to these requirements, you will not be allowed to use them when you complete your test.

FORMATTING: In a table (see example below), cite (that is, *quote word for word using quotation marks*) and note the page number of a special passage which you think is important. (Maybe it explains something about the character, or perhaps it describes a very special event, or perhaps it holds a certain resonance or connection with you, the reader). Write a brief explanation (2-3 sentences) based on the chosen passages. (*Why did you choose this passage? How do you know it is important? What is Steinbeck's purpose for this passage? Dig deep for a connection here.*) An analysis is NOT a summary.

Focus on the following ideas as you read:

- figurative language (e.g., simile, metaphor, hyperbole, etc.)
- elements of the plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, denouement)
- possible themes
- characterization
- setting

Annotations Expectations: Annotations and Paragraphs should be typed as two separate documents, so each will have its own heading, header, and document title.

- Heading, header, and document title are formatted according to MLA guidelines (see below for formatting instructions).
- 12PT Times-New Roman font is used throughout the assignment.
- Ten annotations appear in table format (see below for instructions on how to create a table).
- A printed copy of your annotations will be due on the first day of school. An electronic copy must be saved to upload once school has started.

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PART II: PARAGRAPHS

Freshmen at Collegiate Academy come from a variety of backgrounds. Students come from city schools, county schools, private/parochial schools, charter schools, home schools, and cyber schools. In order for us to determine what writing instruction is necessary, we need to see examples of your best writing. Your written responses should demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of paragraph structure, grammar, and conventions.

Choose **THREE** of the following prompts, and compose a thoughtful, well-constructed paragraph response. Each question should be numbered and typed along with your responses. This is your chance to show us what you know about writing.

1. One aspect of John Steinbeck's style is to create a setting so powerful, it can be viewed as a character. How does he use his beloved California to develop the characters and themes of the novel? Remember, setting is time, place, and *objects*.
2. What words does John Steinbeck use when developing setting and character? Why does he pick those specific descriptors? How else could he have described them?
3. *Of Mice and Men* is about relationships between people. Surface-level character traits can hide more complex traits. What can we see beyond a character's actions?
4. How does Steinbeck develop the theme of loneliness? How does he develop the theme of friendship?
5. How does the time period of the Great Depression make Lennie and George's relationship more meaningful?
6. *Of Mice and Men* gets its title from the poem by Robert Burns, "To a Mouse: On Turning Her Up in Her Nest With a Plough." Read this poem and answer the following questions: How are people at times helpless to control their situation? Do plans always work out? Are efforts sometimes futile? Even when they seem futile, are they still worthwhile?

Paragraph Expectations: Annotations and Paragraphs should be typed as two separate documents, so each will have its own heading, header, and document title.

- Heading, header, and document title are formatted according to MLA guidelines (see instructions for formatting details)
- Font is 12PT Times-New Roman
- Questions should be numbered and typed along with your responses
- Paragraph responses should be typed in complete sentences
- A printed copy of your paragraphs will be due on the first day of school. An electronic copy must be saved to upload once school has started. (Save it via flash drive, email, Google Drive, etc.)

PART III: TEST

Be prepared for a multiple choice/short answer summer reading test on the novella. Remember, you **WILL** be able to use your typed annotations during the test.





LA9 – SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT - FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS

General MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines: (We use MLA format when we write about literature.)

1. Make 1 inch margins on the top, bottom, and sides of your paper. (This is usually already setup for you.)
2. The first word in every paragraph should be indented one half inch. (Use the TAB button.)
3. Use Times-New Roman font. Italics (any time you type the title of the book) should look different than the regular type.
4. Use 12 point size font.
5. Double space your heading and paragraphs.
6. Leave one space after periods and other punctuation marks.

To create a heading and document title, follow these steps:

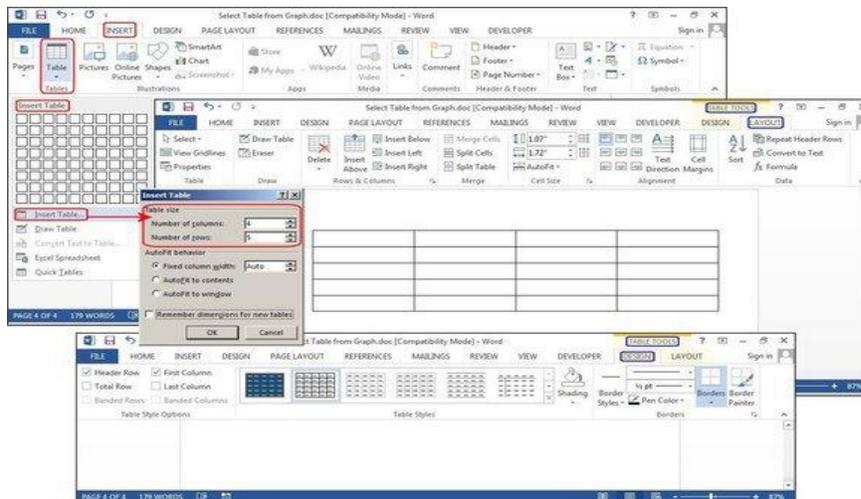
- Type your first name and last name on the first line of the heading.
- Type your instructor's name on the second line (For now, just type Ms. Balsiger/Ms. Chaffe on line 2)
- Type the course title (LA9) followed by a slash (/) and the assignment title (Summer Reading Annotations or Summer Reading Responses).
- Type the assignment due date on the fourth line. MLA guidelines require the date to be typed date/month/year.
- On the next line, center the document title. Do NOT underline, bold, or type the title in all capital letters. Only italicize words that would normally be italicized in the text. Example: Character Development in *Of Mice and Men*
- Do not place a period after the document title or after any headings
- Double space between the title and first lines of the text.

To create a running header, follow these steps:

- Click *Insert* > *Page Number* > *Top of Page* > *Plain Number 3*
- Type your last name and enter one space
- Click on *Close Header and Footer*

To Insert a Table, follow these steps:

- Click *Insert* > *Tables* > *Insert Table* from the dropdown menu.
- In the Insert Table dialog box, enter the number of columns and rows you want in this table (three columns and eleven rows). In the AutoFit Behavior panel, select *Auto*, or click the down arrow to choose a specific size. You can also choose AutoFit to Contents (produces narrow columns that expand as you add data) or AutoFit to Window (expands the table to fit the document size).



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LA9 – SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT - FORMATTING EXAMPLE for ANNOTATIONS

Example heading, header, and document title for annotations:

Sam Smith

Ms. Balsiger/Ms. Chaffee

LA9/ Summer Reading Annotations

27 August 2018

MLA HEADING

MLA HEADER
(Use "Insert, Page
Number.")

Smith 1

Of Mice and Men Analyses

Always italicize the typed
title of a longer work of
literature or media.

Example table:

Annotation #	Quote/Passage (Include Page # in Parenthetical Citation)	Analysis
1	<p>"His huge companion dropped his blankets and flung himself down and drank from the surface of the green pool; drank with long gulps, snorting into the water like a horse" (3).</p> <p>Characterization (Literary Device Illustrated in Text)</p>	<p>The companion character seems to be extremely thirsty. His thirst is so dire that he drinks from a "green pool" which is repulsive. The manner in which he drinks also demonstrates how desperate he is to consume water.</p>
2	<p>"'God, you're a lot of trouble,' said George. 'I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn't have you on my tail. I could live so easy and maybe have a girl'" (7).</p> <p>Characterization (Literary Device Illustrated in Text)</p>	<p>George is extremely angry at Lennie. His complaints about what his life could be like without Lennie, foreshadows problems the two characters may encounter in the future.</p>

Make sure to include the specific literary device that is being illustrated.

Pay attention to how these examples properly cite text from the novella in MLA format.

Your analyses should explain the device's purpose/importance in the text. Why do you think the author employed this device? How does this part add to the *whole* of the book?

Your analyses should NOT be a mere summary of the text.

Please read and sign the last page. This needs to be turned in on the first day of school.



Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy



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ALWAYS REACHING HIGHER

LA9 – SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT - ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Every assignment you do in school is meant to measure your knowledge of something or your ability to do something. The grade you receive on the assignment should reflect that knowledge or ability, but an assignment cannot truly measure your knowledge or ability if you have not done your own work. The summer reading assignment should be the product solely of **your** thoughts, effort, and ideas. Do not use websites. Sites like Wikipedia, Shmoop, and SparkNotes serve a purpose, but using them for an assignment like this one is dishonest. Furthermore, your teachers are not interested in what SparkNotes says. We are interested in *your* ideas, interpretations, and arguments. We want to know what *you* think. Your ideas are far more interesting than the ones regurgitated again and again on the internet, and looking at those websites will color your thinking and prevent you from developing your own ideas. Although there will doubtlessly be collaborative assignments throughout the school year, this is not one of them. Do your own work. You may not in any way work with someone else on this assignment. *Your assignment will eventually be uploaded to Turnitin.com, which will detect any plagiarism. If your annotations show any evidence of your having copied from a website, a classmate, or any other source, you will receive a zero on the assignment and a referral to the deans. Please sign below and return only this page on the first day of school.*

Student Name (Print): _____ **LA9 Block:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ **Phone #:** _____