

Of Mice and Men Final Essay

Select one of these topics and write a five-paragraph essay that thoroughly explores it. Your essay can be longer, if needed. Assume that your reader is very familiar with the novel and there is no need to retell the whole plot. These are the skills I'm looking for:

L.2 - conventions in writing (specifically commas)	
RL.5 - structure (consider the author's intentions here)	
W.5 - planning, writing, revising (planning guide/outline)	
W.9 - using evidence (from the novel) to support claims	

Topic 1 - THEME: COMFORT

Discuss the theme of *comfort* in the novel. How does Steinbeck use Lennie's attraction to soft things to create drama and tension in the novel? Use both Lennie and Curley's wife to structure your essay.

Topic 2 - THEME: HOME

How does Lennie and George's dream of the farm structure the novel? Discuss when and where it appears throughout the story. What does the dream reveal about the characters themselves? How does it move the plot and connect with the theme of *home*?

Topic 3 - THEME: POWER

How does *power* function in this novel? Consider the power dynamics between characters, the impact of social status, the function of strength and weakness in the novel, and the various characters with physical and mental limitations.

Topic 4 - THEME: LONELINESS

It seems like many characters in this story are lonely. Discuss two characters of your choice: how does *loneliness* direct their behavior and their relationships with other people? How does loneliness affect the story?

