

Gateway: Take Home Mini-Essays for *Of Mice and Men* and “The Scarlet Ibis”

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A WRITING SUMMATIVE. I AM LOOKING FOR:

- **WELL WRITTEN RESPONSES**
- **INTEGRATED QUOTES WITH PROPER IN-TEXT CITATIONS**
- **CLEAR ARGUMENTS/ANSWERS SUPPORTED BY SPECIFIC TEXTUAL DETAILS**

1. How does the relationship between George and Lennie compare to that of Brother and Doodle? Explain using several specific details and aspects of the relationship.

2. What is an *interesting* comparison that you can make between the two texts? Go beyond the surface level/obvious ones. Provide a direct quote from either story to support your answer.

3. How does the structure/plot progression of each story compare to one another? Explain.

4. Who is a more sympathetic character, Brother or George? Why?

5. Find similarities between what George (and to some degree, Lennie) envisions for their future - his American Dream - and what Brother and Doogie envision for theirs. Use specific details and phrases from the texts to support your answer.

6. Choose ONE of the following quotes:

- “There is within me (and with sadness I have watched it in others) a knot of cruelty borne by the stream of love, much as our blood sometimes bears the seed of our destruction” (Hurst 215).
- “I did not know then that pride is a wonderful, terrible thing, a seed that bears two vines, life and death” (Hurst 217).
- “He, too, now believed in my infallibility” (Hurst 219).

Write a well-developed response in which you explain how one of the quotes is represented in *both* John Steinbeck’s novella *Of Mice and Men* and James Hurst’s short story “The Scarlet Ibis.” Include the quote itself and at least one quote from each of the stories in your response.

7. Write something that is inspired by one or both stories. You can be creative or analytical - as long as you are clever, demonstrate proper written conventions, and produce something of which you are proud.

Due, printed, at the start of class on Wednesday, June 6th.

Number your responses as separate paragraphs, in the order presented.