



Year 9 English - Of Mice and Men



Essential Knowledge

On October 29th, 1929, millions of dollars were wiped out in the **Wall Street Crash**. It led to the People losing their life savings and a third of America's population became unemployed.

What is the American Dream?

The ideal that there is equality of opportunity & through hard work, goals can be achieved

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. Although his family was wealthy, he was interested in the lives of the farm labourers and spent time working with them. He used his experiences as material for his writing.

Context

'Dust Bowl': A series of droughts in southern mid-west states like Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas led to failed harvests and dried-up land. Farmers were forced to move off their land: they could not repay the bank-loans which had helped buy the farms and had to sell what they owned to pay debts.

Racism/sexism were common, especially in Southern states due to economic climate, & history of slavery.

Grammar Focus - Connectives and creating flow

Now you have developed your ability to write 'What/How/Why' paragraphs, we need to ensure that we are creating flow between our points in order to create a strong overall response.

Use connectives and your 'What' to demonstrate how your points all link together.

To further a point...

- In addition,
- Furthermore,
- Plus,
- Also,
- Similarly,
- Moreover,



To make an opposing point...

- However,
- On the other hand,
- Conversely,
- Yet

Sentence starters to create flow:

- Furthermore, this impression is strengthened later in the text when...
- Similarly, the writer creates the sense that...
- However, the writer creates contrast when they...

Sophisticated vocabulary	Definition
derogatory (adj.)	Showing a disrespectful or insulting attitude.
discrimination (n.)	Unfair treatment of people based on things like race, gender, or disability.
disillusionment (n.)	Feeling disappointed because something you hoped for is not real or true.
hierarchy (n.)	A system where people are ranked one above the other by status or power.
idealism (n.)	Believing in or hoping for a perfect or better world.
marginalisation (n)	Being treated as unimportant or pushed to the edges of society.
misogyny (n)	Hatred or dislike of women.
monotonous (adj.)	Something boring because it is always the same and never changes.
segregation (n)	Separating people based on race or other differences.
superiority (n)	Believing you are better or more important than others.

Key Terms	Definition
characterisation	How a writer shows what a character is like (through description, actions, dialogue etc).
foreshadowing	The writer hints at what will happen later in the story
imagery	Descriptive language that creates vivid pictures
omniscient narrator	An all-knowing narrator that tells the story but is not part of it. They can see into the minds of the characters and knows what is to come.
symbolism	The use of a repeated image in order to create a deeper meaning.

Writing structure & sentence starters

What — What impression does the writer create?

- [Writer's name] *has created the impression that...*

How 1 — How do you know this?

- *This is clear when the writer states...*
[quotation]

How 2 — How can you explore this quotation?

- *This suggests...*
[explain what the quotation means/implies]
- *The use of the [word/ word class/ technique] conveys that...*

Why — Why does the writer give us this impression?

- [Writer's name] *has presented [the topic] in this way in order to...*