

Incoming Freshman Summer Book Test Study Guide
Summer 2011

Book I – Choice 1: Study Guide for *Of Mice and Men*

Test will be a scantron format (multiple choice, matching, true/false-type questions) – you MUST bring pencils and erasers to the test.

1. Where are George and Lennie coming from when the book opens? Why did they have to leave their previous job?
2. Why does George get so frustrated with Lennie?
3. What is the dream both Lennie and George have?
4. What does George tell Lennie to do (or not to do) when they meet the boss for the first time?
5. What explanation does George give for Lennie's mental condition? Is it accurate?
6. Why are the men on the ranch suspicious of George and Lennie's relationship?
7. Explain the context of this quote: "Lennie's strong and quick and Lennie don't know no rules." Who is the speaker? What prompts him to say this? What does he mean when he says that Lennie "don't know no rules?"
8. What does Lennie receive from Slim at the beginning of chapter 3?
9. What justification does Carlson give for shooting Candy's old dog? What does Candy regret about shooting the dog?
10. Why is Lennie reluctant to fight Curley? What injury does he inflict on Curley? What does Curley claim happens? Why does he say this?
11. Who becomes part of George and Lennie's dream and why?
12. How do the men on the ranch feel about Curley's wife?
13. Why doesn't Crooks want Lennie to enter his room? Why does he change his mind?
14. What is Crooks' first reaction to the dream about the farm? How does this change?
15. What is your opinion of Curley's wife? Has it changed since the beginning of the novel? How? Why doesn't Steinbeck give her a name?
16. How does Crooks' attitude change after his encounter with Curley's wife? Why does it change?
17. What was Curley's wife's dream? What happened?
18. Why did she marry Curley?
19. Did she really love Curley?
20. How and why does Lennie kill Curley's wife?
21. How does Lennie react to the death of the pup? Curley's wife? What do these contrasting reactions reveal about Lennie?
22. What is the status of the dream after the murder?
23. What bizarre conversation does Lennie have? What can it mean?
24. What are George's last remarks to Lennie? Why does George repeat a story that has been told so many times before?
25. Who actually stole Carlson's gun? Why does George lie about it?
26. How does Slim treat George after Lennie's death? Why does he treat him in this matter?
27. What do the final lines of Curley and Carlson reveal about their characters?
28. Explain how each character experiences isolation and/or loneliness in the novel:

George	Crooks
Lennie	Curley's wife
Curley	Candy

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Book I – Choice 2: Study Guide for *Pay It Forward*

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Character Identification (most characters are listed here)

Trevor McKinney	Jerry Busconi	Sidney G
Arlene McKinney	Mrs. Greenberg & Richard Green	Chris Chandler
Ricky	Terri & Matt	Rueben St. Clair
Cheryl	Charlotte	Lou
Charlotte	Gordie	Sidney G
Roger Meagan	Sally	Mitchell Scoggins
Ronald Pollack, Jr.	Stella Brown	Bonnie & Loretta

Settings (and who lived there)

- Atascadero
- Washington DC
- Los Angeles
- New York City

Themes

- one person can make a difference
- the power of love

- 1) What is unique about Trevor's social studies teacher?
- 2) What is the extra credit assignment?
What does Trevor think will happen once everyone has been helped once? Will it end?
- 3) What does Trevor do for the extra credit assignment?
- 4) **Who does Trevor "pay it forward to?" Who do those people pay it forward to and so on? (Maybe create a flow chart or a cause/effect chart to show the relationships)**
This is an important question as much of the plot flows from this!
- 5) What relationship develops between Reuben and Arlene?
 - a. At times, why does Reuben think Arlene looks down on him?
 - b. At times, why does Arlene think Reuben looks down on her?
- 6) How does Jerry mess things up?
- 7) What was in Mrs. Greenberg's will?
- 8) What was Trevor's motivation in paying it forward to Reuben?
- 9) What date did Reuben say he'd never forget and why?
- 10) How is Ricky involved in Trevor's life? In Arlene's life?
- 11) Who does Chris Chandler talk to and what does he see in Atascadero?
- 12) Describe Arlene's car problems and what solution she comes to.
- 13) Why does Trevor go to Washington DC? What good events happen there? What bad events happen there?
- 14) What honors does Trevor receive/ earn?
- 15) Describe the conclusion to the novel – does the movement continue? How is its founder remembered?
- 16) Who has a baby at the end of the novel?

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Book II – Choice 1: Study Guide for *Tangerine*

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Character Identification

Nicknames → Eclipse Boy, Mars, Mohawk Man, Fisher Man, War Eagles, Charlie the Tuna, Caesar Salad, Julius Caesar

Paul Fisher	Wayne	Arthur Bauer	Betty Bright
Mom (Caroline Fisher)	Mr. Costello	Joey Costello	Theresa Cruz
Dad	Mike Costello	Mr. Murrow	Dr. Johnson
Erik Fisher	Coach Warner	Mrs. Gates	Kerri Gardner
Charley Burns	Antoine Thomas	Mr. Bridges	Cara
Lake Windsor soccer team members		Luis Cruz	Vincent Castor
Tangerine Middle soccer team members			

Settings

- Houston, TX
- Lake Windsor Downs, Tangerine County, Florida
- Lake Windsor Middle & High Schools
- Tangerine Middle School
- What is Tangerine County #1 in the nation for?
- St. Anthony's School

Themes (how are they shown in the novel)

- Appearance vs. reality
- Fear
- Communication
- Heroism

Symbols

- Koi in the pond
- Lightening
- Muck fire

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PART 1

- 1) Why did the Fisher family move?
- 2) What is their new house like in Florida?
- 3) What sport and position does Erik play?
- 4) What does the "Erik Fisher Football Dream" mean?
- 5) What sport and position does Paul play?
- 6) What's a muck fire? What's lignite?
- 7) What's Paul's eye condition? When did it happen and how?
- 8) Describe Paul's middle school.
- 9) What's the weather like in Florida in August?
- 10) What is the story surrounding "Eclipse Boy?"
- 11) What happened to Mike Costello at football practice on September 5?
- 12) Who damaged the Wonders of the World exhibit at the carnival?
- 13) Who is Paul most afraid of and why?
- 14) What happened geologically on September 11? How did it impact the school and the Fisher family? What's the emergency plan for the school?

PART 2

- 15) Contrast Tangerine middle school with Lake Windsor Middle.
- 16) How does Paul begin to feel a part of Tangerine Middle?
- 17) Why does Paul have to "be" Victor during the second soccer game?
- 18) How was Cara "scamming" Paul?
- 19) Why was Paul's home "poison" to Joey?
- 20) How do Paul and Joey's feelings about Tangerine Middle School differ?
- 21) What problems have been occurring in Paul's neighborhood?
- 22) Describe the Tomas Cruz Groves.
- 23) What happened at the soccer game between Paul's old school and new school?

PART 3

- 24) Describe Erik's run-ins with Tino and Luis.
- 25) How did Paul and his friends help the Cruz family during the deep freeze?
- 26) What happened to Luis Cruz (see Nov. 28).
- 27) How did Victor and Tino pay Erik back?
- 28) What does Paul remember about the events causing his eye problems? Who was involved?
- 29) What does Antoine confess to reporters and the sports commission?
- 30) What was the meeting at Paul's home on December 3 about? What did the homeowners agree to?
- 31) What punishment did Tino, Victor and Paul receive for their parts in the fight?

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Book II – Choice 2: Study Guide for *Bean Trees*

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CHARACTERS: Newt Hardbine & Jolene Shanks Marietta (Missy) (Taylor) Greer Alice (Mama) Greer Hughes & Lynda Walter Irene & Mrs. Hoge	Lee Sing Turtle Lou Ann & Angel & Dwayne Ray Ruiz Mathilda (Mattie) & Samuel Sandi & Seattle Ivy & Granny Logan	Harland Elleston Father William & Terry Estevan & Esperanza Mrs. Parsons & Mrs. Poppy Ismene Cynthia & Mr. Armistead
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SETTINGS: 1980's Pittman County, Kentucky Tucson, Arizona Jesus is Lord Used Tires	Cherokee Nation Oklahoma City Lake of the Cherokees
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THEMES & SYMBOLS & MOTIFS:

- 1) Themes: The Shared Burden of Womanhood; The Plight of Illegal Immigrants; Respect for the Environment; Growing Up
- 2) Motifs: Rebirth; Motherhood; Sanctuary
- 3) Symbols: Beans and Bean Trees; Ismene; Birds, Snake, Alligator

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who is the narrator of the novel?
- 2) What was Missy's life like growing up in Kentucky?
- 3) What two promises does Missy make with herself when she left home?
- 4) What is Missy's (Taylor's) connection to the Cherokee Nation.
- 5) Describe the shift in narration in Chapter Two. Who is telling the story now?
- 6) How is Lou Ann different from Taylor?
- 7) Describe Angel.
- 8) How did Taylor react to Arizona? What made her decide to stay there?
- 9) Describe "Jesus Is Lord Used Tires."
- 10) What does Chapter Four say about the bonds between women?
- 11) What does the Tug Fork water symbolize?
- 12) Describe Fei, La-Isha, and Timothy. How are they different from Lou Ann? Why does Taylor choose to live with Lou Ann instead of the others?
- 13) What jobs does Taylor get in Tucson? Which job works out best?
- 14) Describe the attitude toward men on the part of the characters and author in Chapter Six.
- 15) How is Estevan different from the other male characters we've seen?
- 16) What does Mattie do for people like Estevan and Esperanza? What clues earlier in the story hinted at her activities?
- 17) What does the "Miracle of Dog Doo Park" refer to?
- 18) Where does Angel go and how does Lou Ann feel about his departure?
- 19) What does Taylor learn about Estevan and Esperanza's past in Guatemala? How does this affect Taylor and her feelings for Estevan?
- 20) How does Lou Ann demonstrate more confidence in herself in Chapters Ten and Eleven?
- 21) What does the snake symbolize in Chapter Twelve? Think about what is going on at home with Turtle...
- 22) What does Taylor learn about Turtle from the doctor?

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- 23) Which characters provide “sanctuary” within the story to others?
- 24) How does Taylor respond to the news that she has no legal claim over Turtle? How does Lou Ann respond? What perspective does Mattie bring to Taylor about parenting?
- 25) What does the Night-Blooming Cereus symbolize?
- 26) Describe what happens at the routine immigration check in Chapter Fourteen.
- 27) What changes have taken place at the Broken Arrow Motor Lodge?
- 28) What does Taylor discover about the Cherokee Nation in Chapter Fifteen that changes her impression of the area?
- 29) Why does Turtle bury her doll?
- 30) Describe what happens in Chapter Sixteen. What does this moment represent for Esperanza (hint: define “catharsis”)? What does Taylor mean when she says all of them buried someone they loved in Oklahoma?
- 31) Why does Taylor decide to call 1-800-THE-LORD? How does she feel about the conversation she has?
- 32) What does Taylor discover about wisteria? How is this discovery related to the theme of the novel?
- 33) What is a “family”? How does this novel ask you to question your definition of “family”?
- 34) How is “home” defined in terms of geography? How is it defined in terms of people?

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Book III: Study Guide for *Treasure Island*

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Character Identification

Jim Hawkins	Pew	Ben Gunn
Mr. Hawkins	John Silver	Captain Flint
Mrs. Hawkins	Alexander Smollet	Mr. Arrow
Billy Bones	David Livesey	Israel Hands
Black Dog	John Trelawney	Admiral Benbow
Redruth	Joyce	Hunter
Gray	Mr. Dance	O'Brien

Setting:

Time – 1700s

Places – England, Admiral Benbow Inn (located in Black Hill Grove), Bristol, *Hispaniola*, “Spy-glass,” Treasure Island/Skeleton Island, the *Walrus*, the stockade

PART 1

- 1) Who is the narrator of the story?
- 2) What is the Admiral Benbow inn like?
- 3) Describe the “captain” who stays at the inn. Why did he choose their inn? Who is this seaman afraid of?
- 4) How do the doctor and captain get along?
- 5) What is Jim’s family like?
- 6) Who is the first sailor to visit the captain? What happens during the visit? How does Billy’s health suffer after the visit?
- 7) What is Billy afraid of receiving from Captain Flint’s men? Why?
- 8) Who is the second person to visit Captain Billy at the inn? What does he deliver and what does it say?
- 9) How does Captain Billy receive the news the blind man brought him? (Define apoplexy)
- 10) Describe what Jim and his mother do the rest of that day.
- 11) What was in the oilcloth packet?
- 12) What are Trelawney, Livesey, Jim and others going to do?

PART 2

- 13) What information does the squire share in his letter?
- 14) Describe the ship and crew.
- 15) Are there any potential conflicts among the crew members?
- 16) What did Jim fall asleep in?
- 17) What plan did Jim overhear? (hint: define mutiny)
- 18) How many “good guys” does Jim know they have (at the end of Part 2)?

PART 3

- 19) How did the crew’s attitude change once they had anchored at the island?
- 20) Who did Jim meet that was marooned on the island?
- 21) What does “maroon” mean?

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PART 4

- 22) Who takes over the narration in this section?
- 23) Describe the stockade.
- 24) How and why do the doctor and others abandon the *Hispanola*?
- 25) What gives away the position of the good guys to the bad guys (hint: it's something in the air).
- 26) Who is the first person to call a truce? What are the terms of his truce? How does Smollett respond?
- 27) Who wins the battle in Part 4?
- 28) Who are the "good guys" and who are the "bad guys?" What are the numbers left on each side at the conclusion of Part 4?

PART 5

- 29) Which "good guys" were injured or killed in the battle?
- 30) Why does Jim sneak out? Where does he go and what does he plan on doing? Why?
- 31) Describe the coracle and its significance in the story.
- 32) Describe the scene aboard the *Hispaniola* once Jim boards it.
- 33) Who becomes his unlikely ally at this point on the ship?
- 34) How does the battle between Jim and Hands end?

PART 6

- 35) What changes did Jim find at the stockade when he returned there?
- 36) What bargain does he strike with John Silver?
- 37) What did the doctor give Silver (which surprises Jim to find out)?
- 38) What was the black spot written on and who was it given to? Why?
- 39) When the pirates ascended the hill, what did they find at the top to use as a directional? Who had placed this discovery there?
- 40) What do the men hear that frighten them? Who do they think is speaking (2 answers)?
- 41) Who had found the treasure first and where was it now hidden?
- 42) What happened to Long John Silver?
- 43) When the men got home, how did they spend their money?