

# KS3 English Curriculum

## Year 9: Freedom and Equality

*Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck



## Parental Guide

### Our intent through this topic:

To expose children to the culturally rich and diverse literature they are entitled to in order for them to develop a love of the subject. To encourage students to engage with viewpoints, perspectives and personal experiences of a range of writers regarding key world issues. To empower students to form their own opinions. Students will also be able to write fluently and accurately for different purposes and audiences, communicating their ideas and emotions and interpreting the use of language by others.

### English Key Concepts

Content	<b>Of Mice and Men</b> Methods have meaning Gender difference Racial discrimination Prejudice
Context	Role of women Great Depression Jim Crow laws Dust Bowl American Dream Racism Learning Difficulties
Universal Suffering and the Human Condition	Inequality, masculinity vs tender masculinity, loneliness/ isolation, relationships, healthy vs toxic, duty, gender expectation, servitude, prejudice, racism.
Methods have Meaning	Metaphor, irony, parallel, setting, symbolism, nouns.
Criticism and critical interpretation	Toxic masculinity, gender expectations/ role of women, race perception through time.
Mastery of SPAG	Use of pronoun, effective rhetorical questions, sentence variety.

### Students will know:

- What a patriarchal society is and how this links to a 1930s American society
- How hierarchy and social class are presented in the novel
- How Curley's wife is presented as a tragic femme fatale
- How the novel is a microcosm of American society
- The concept of gender roles

- How to explain what toxic masculinity is
- The role of hierarchy
- The role of power and prejudice
- How to explain migration- causes and consequences

### Students will be able to:

- Compare the similarities and differences between hierarchy and prejudice as explored in other forms of literature at KS3
- Explain how context influences writer's intention
- Identify and explain the impact of symbolism
- Explain why Steinbeck uses microcosm
- Identify different word classes used for the description of Curley's wife and Crooks
- Use excellent epithets to write thesis statements
- Use thesis statements to write three topic sentences
- Embed textual detail to support arguments
- Analyse a writer's methods
- Use a range of sentence types to create effects
- Respond to themes through writing

### Revision questions to help support your child:

Encourage your child to speak through their subject knowledge. By taking on the role of the student, ask your child to explain a topic from one of their subjects. Listen carefully and don't be afraid to ask them a question if you do not fully understand what they are saying. This will help them to understand the topic themselves through the process of telling you what they know and help with the transferal of knowledge from their short term to long term memory.

- Who is John Steinbeck?
- Why did he write *Of Mice and Men*?
- What do the following words mean: Protagonist, Appositive, Parallel, Fate, Semantic Field, Derogatory language, Motif, Irony, Dialect, Patriarchy, Symbolism, Hierarchy, Tragedy, Objectification, Microcosm.
- What is: Metaphor, irony, parallel, setting, symbolism, nouns, pronouns, rhetorical question?
- Can you give me an example of each of the above?
- In a metaphor, what is the tenor, vehicle and ground?
- How do you structure a thesis statement?
- How do you turn a thesis statement into a topic sentence?
- What is embedded evidence?
- What is language analysis?
- What is meant by "writer's intent"?
- Can you tell me about the plot of the narrative you have been reading? (*Of Mice and Men*)
- What has been your favourite moment in the novel and why?
- Which character is the most free and why?
- Which character(s) lack(s) freedom and why?
- What types of inequality do we see in the novel?

- What is prejudice? Where do we see prejudice in the novel?
- What is the Great Depression? How does it link to the novel?
- What is the American Dream? How does it link to the novel?
- What is toxic masculinity? How does it link to the novel?
- What is a 'femme fatale' – how does this term link to the novel?
- What is a migrant worker and why did they exist in 1930s America?

For further support, please contact A Vukasovic at [amy.vukasovic@georgesalter.com](mailto:amy.vukasovic@georgesalter.com) (Head of English)

Or L Male at [lynn.male@georgesalter.com](mailto:lynn.male@georgesalter.com) (KS3 coordinator).