

OF MICE & MEN Close Reading Directions

1. **Close Read (40%= 10 pts):** Read with a pencil/highlighter in hand, and annotate the text. Suggestion: Read the passage through first, and then annotate the second time around. At a glance, your copy of the passage should look heavily marked. Up close, your comments and questions should seem sincere and thoughtful. This is the look and sound of “active reading.”
 - a. Annotating *means* underlining or highlighting key words and phrases—anything that strikes you as surprising or important, or that raises questions or confusions.
 - b. Annotating *includes* writing your thoughts and reactions in the margins ON THE LEFT next to what you have highlighted or underlined. Random underlining or highlighting by itself is coloring, not close reading.
 - c. Highlight or circle words you don’t know, then look ‘em up! Write down the definition in the margin ON THE LEFT next to the word. A wider vocabulary offers you greater access to the world.

 2. **Digging Deeper (60%= 15pts):** Choose five of the following sentence starters and write a brief 2-3 sentence reflection for each to expand your ideas of what the deeper meanings of the passage and what the author is trying to do. Write down these thoughts in the margin ON THE RIGHT of your paper.
 - a. It is clear that...
 - b. The concept that _____ is (invalid, illogical, flawed, and erroneous)...
 - c. It is challenging to determine whether...
 - d. It cannot be easily decided whether...
 - e. It is evident that...
 - f. It seems less important that...
 - g. It is not always true...
 - h. This suggests...
 - i. Perhaps...
 - j. Although it seems...
 - k. Despite this...
 - l. The author wants the reader to think...
 - m. _____ could be viewed as...
- MUST FOCUS ON ARGUING:**

 1. **THEMES**
 - a. **THE AMERICAN DREAM**
 - b. **LONLINESS**
 - c. **FRIENDSHIP**
 - d. **LOSS OF PARADISE**
 - e. **PREJUDICE**
 - f. **ENTRAPMENT**

 2. **DEEPER CHARACTERIZATION**

 3. **CHARACTER’S MOTIVES**