

Write amazing 'OMAM' essays

Keep it formal and legible

Use inverted commas around quotations which are embedded and short

Planning is important:

- ◇ decide how you are going to answer the question;
- ◇ jot down a plan of the points you want to make;
- ◇ make sure you've got enough points;
- ◇ organise them so they flow.

Spend about 5 mins planning

Structure:

- ◇ your intro should give a brief answer to the question;
- ◇ the middle section should explain your answer in detail and give evidence to back it up. Write a paragraph for each point you make.
PEE;
- ◇ always write a conclusion:
sum up the most important facts and ideas in your essay;
give your opinion about the topic;
argue the same thing as the rest of your essay.

Check everything at the end - that you haven't intro and conc, that you've PEELed and if you need to add anything, use * next to the extra bit and where you want it to go.

Make sure you know what happens in the 6 sections of the book.

Your essay title could focus on many things so be prepared!

- ◇ Know your characters - physically, mentally, changes, interaction with others, dialogue, dreams etc. what methods has Steinbeck used in his characterisation? By what they say and do and/or through description? Does Steinbeck let you make up your own mind? Ordinary people?
- ◇ Know about ranch life - hierarchy, rules, loneliness etc
- ◇ Know about violence in the novel - who does what and to whom, symbolism, motivation & consequences etc

- ◇ Hands - important for most characters (C's wife, Curley, Candy, Lennie, George and Slim)
- ◇ Names and titles (places and people) - what do they symbolise/give the reader?
- ◇ The 3 types of women - C's wife (sexual and frustrated, a 'real' woman the men struggle with), Aunt Clara (authority figure) and Susy's place (brothel, no strings) - men and women don't understand each other, Lennie's history with women
- ◇ Loneliness - everyone for different reasons and no one has an answer
- ◇ Doomed to failure - loving relationships; racial harmony; dreams; quality of life
- ◇ Dreams - going nowhere, the American Dream and its achievability
- ◇ Why does George kill Lennie? - what are the other options? Is it inevitable? Does it set them both free?
- ◇ Nature - the dark side, survival of the fittest, paradise an illusion etc
- ◇ Red - it's just about the only colour mentioned, danger, blood, lips and nails etc, dress in Weed
- ◇ Card games - George plays solitaire (patience), Lennie's perusal of a card
- ◇ Candy's dog - like Candy, moments of hope, old, metaphor for old age/men on the ranch?

- ◇ Language - trying to be realistic, the men are all literate, racist references, work-related vocabulary etc.

- ◇ Does Steinbeck use similes and metaphors? What kind of words/imagery does he use?

- ◇ Structure - nature starts and ends the novel, switch between hope and despair, novel written like a play (all visual, dramatic, one location per chapter/section, very visual qualities help determine the characters. Is the plot chronological? How is the book divided up? What do we get at the start of each section?

- ◇ Think about Steinbeck and 1930s California - economic nightmare, poverty and starvation, wars in Europe etc

Show you know the events and characters in detail

Interpret the book. Explain your opinion clearly with evidence. Remember A-A*s discuss alternative interpretations.