

English III AP Summer Assignment 2009

You are about to embark upon the great adventure that is English III. Because the junior year of English focuses primarily on American literature, you will begin your adventure by reading a classic piece from one of America's most well-known and well-respected authors. Who's that author? I'm glad you asked! It's John Steinbeck.

You can choose between two books to read

1. *Of Mice and Men* or
2. *East of Eden*

**Note: Of Mice and Men is relatively short, and East of Eden is fairly long. Choose whichever book you'd prefer based on the time you have for reading this summer and your desire for challenge.*

Procure a copy of whichever book you prefer; they should be readily available at bookstores, including Half-Price Books. If you think you will have problems obtaining a copy for any reason, please see me before school ends or call or email me over the summer.

Option #1—Keep a literary journal. In a composition book or some other kind of notebook, record your responses to your reading, discussion questions for your group, connections to other literature or media, or interpretations of the text. Make sure to **record page numbers** for the pieces of text you refer to.

Option #2—Create dialectical (two column) notes based on your reading. In the left-hand column, record direct quotations from or paraphrases of the text (**and page numbers!**). In the right-hand column, write your interpretations of, reactions to, and questions about these pieces of text. Every entry in the left column must have a matching entry in the right column.

Option #3—Post it! (On a post-it note, that is). As you read, keep a stack of post-its at your side. When you encounter intriguing, lovely, or confusing pieces of text, jot down your reaction to it, a question about it, or an interpretation of it and stick it in your book.

No matter which option you choose, you must have. You will turn in your literary journal, dialectical notes, or post-its (still in your book). **Bring your book and notes with you on your second day of English class.** Your grade will be based on the criteria below.

Extraordinary! (100)	Plain ole' good (85)	Lacking something (75)	Re-do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entries from throughout book present• All questions, reactions, connections, and/or interpretations are specific to the text• Show insight into text• Entries are crafted in a way peers can understand them and engage in discussion about them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entries from throughout book present• All entries are specific to the text but may not show special insight into it• Entries are understandable to peers and are discuss-able.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entries may not span text• Entries relate to the text but vaguely• Show evidence of reading but do not demonstrate thought about the text.• Peers may not be able to understand entries or engage in meaningful discussion about entries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal number of entries.• Entries present show no evidence of reading or understanding material• Entries would not elicit discussion of the text itself.

Obviously, the number of notes you complete will vary depending on which book you read. I will check to see that you have notes from the significant moments of the book and that your notes span the entire book. At a minimum, you should have 2-3 notes per chapter.

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