



## **FRIENDSHIP AND COMPANIONSHIP IN *OF MICE AND MEN***

**! YOUR ESSAY MUST MEET ALL THE CRITERIA FOR THE INTRODUCTION, BODY PARAGRAPHS, AS WELL AS CONCLUSION; OTHERWISE, YOUR ESSAY WILL NOT BE MARKED! !**



**! COMPLETE THE COVER LIST BELOW TO ENSURE YOU HAVE MET ALL THE CRITERIA !**

### **Cover Checklist- ✓ Tick Each Section When Complete.**

- ☒ ~~PREP STEP - Make a copy of this document.~~
- ☒ ~~PREP STEP - Share your essay outline template with your tutor.~~
- ☒ ~~PREP STEP - Copy and paste the link for your essay outline into your study system.~~
- ☒ ~~STEP 1 - Outline your 100% essay -~~ **START WITH THE CONCLUSION & WORK BACKWARDS**
- ☒ ~~STEP 2 - Use the TTECEA checklist for details~~
- ☒ ~~STEP 3 - Revise your essay - check for coherence & cohesion, redundant repetition, clarity, vocabulary, etc.~~
- ☒ ~~STEP 4 - Edit your essay.~~
- ☒ ~~STEP 5 - Put your essay together as one complete piece.~~

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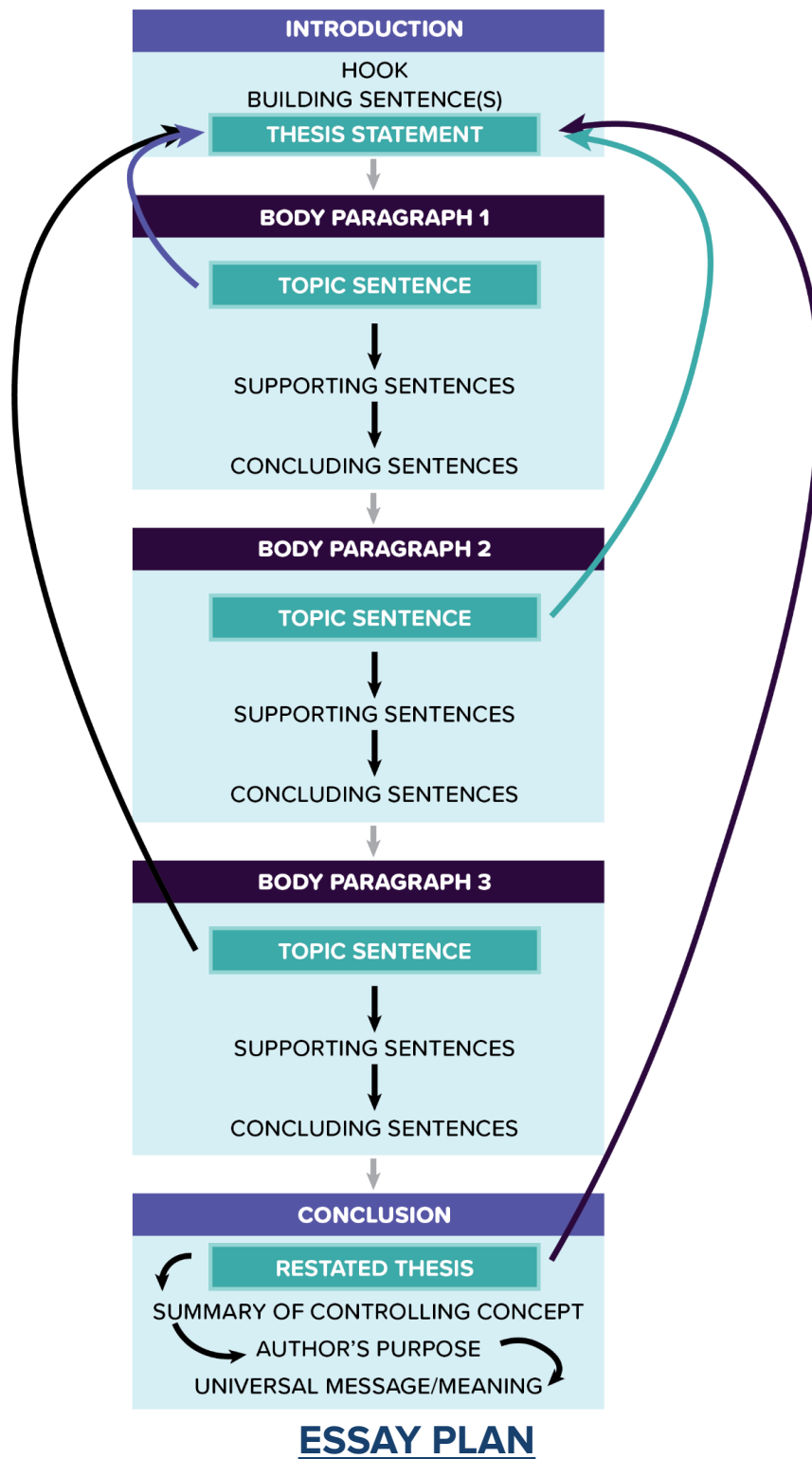
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## **100% ESSAY STRUCTURE OVERVIEW**







- A. Background: Great Depression, prevailing individualism
- B. Thesis: Explore themes of friendship, companionship, and shared dreams as sources of hope and resilience

## II. George and Lennie's unique bond

- A. Sense of purpose and belonging
- B. Dialogues and interactions showcasing their connection
- C. Importance of companionship in a world of isolation
- D. Critique of society neglecting the vulnerable

## III. Contrast with other characters' isolation

- A. Crooks: racial segregation
- B. Candy: age and disability
- C. Characters' longing for companionship
- D. Critique of societal norms and discrimination
- E. Central message: friendship and companionship are essential

## IV. Shared dream of owning land

- A. Desire for belonging and stability
- B. Hope for a better future with camaraderie and self-reliance
- C. Collapse of the dream and fragility of human connections
- D. Challenges faced by those seeking solace and support

## V. Conclusion

- A. Recap of themes explored
- B. Controlling concept of friendship and companionship
- C. Steinbeck's critique of society and importance of human connections





## STEP 1: OUTLINING - Complete Your 100% Essay Outline

Criteria	Status	INTRODUCTION - Do not make this too detailed.
<u>Hook AO1</u>  quote ▾	Complete ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In a world ravaged by the Great Depression, where the dust of failed dreams and desolation hung heavy in the air, John Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men' illuminates the enduring power of friendship and companionship as a beacon of hope amidst the darkness of a seemingly hopeless era.
<u>Building sentence(s) AO3</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> counter-argument <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> some contextual info	Complete ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Delving into the complex relationship between the novel's protagonists, George and Lennie, Steinbeck masterfully explores the intricate dynamics of their companionship, which defies the prevailing individualism that marked the tumultuous 1930s.
<u>Thesis statement AO1</u>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3	Complete ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Consequently, this essay will explore the themes of friendship, companionship, and shared dreams which emerge as powerful forces that offer hope and resilience in the face of societal injustices and the harsh realities of the Great Depression.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 1 - only focus on KEY IDEA #1
<u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-1	Complete ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	At the heart of the novel lies the unique and powerful bond between George and Lennie, which provides both men with a sense of purpose and belonging amidst the harsh realities of the Great Depression.
<u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input type="checkbox"/> effects*	Complete ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Steinbeck skillfully employs dialogues and interactions to showcase their deep understanding of each other, offering a glimpse into the strength of their connection. For instance, when George says, 'I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you', the reader can perceive the symbiotic nature of their relationship. Furthermore, George's reassurance to Lennie, 'Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don't belong no place... With us it ain't like that. We got a future', emphasises the importance of their companionship in a world where isolation is the norm. This sense of belonging is especially significant in the context of the 1930s America, where the economic downturn left countless individuals without a support system, struggling to find stability and solace.





		Through the portrayal of George and Lennie's friendship, Steinbeck not only highlights the importance of human connection during such trying times but also offers a poignant critique of the society that neglected the needs of the vulnerable, pushing them further into isolation and despair.
<a href="#">WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</a>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)	<b>Complete</b> ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In doing so, Steinbeck reminds the reader that, as Lennie puts it, 'it's a lot nicer to go around with a guy you know', emphasising the life-affirming power of companionship in an otherwise unforgiving world.
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - only focus on KEY IDEA #2</b>
<a href="#">WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</a>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-2	<b>Complete</b> ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Building upon the central theme of friendship and companionship, Steinbeck contrasts the profound connection between George and Lennie with the isolation experienced by other characters, who serve as poignant reminders of the societal injustices prevalent during the Great Depression.
<a href="#">HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</a>  <input type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input type="checkbox"/> effects*	<b>Complete</b> ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	For example, Crooks, the African American stable hand, is marginalised due to his race and suffers the harsh consequences of racial segregation, being forced to live apart from the other workers. Candy, an old swamper, faces loneliness due to his age and physical disability, which renders him of little use in the able-bodied world of ranch work. These characters are longing for companionship, as illustrated by Crooks' confession: 'A guy needs somebody - to be near him... A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody' and Candy's eagerness to join George and Lennie's dream of owning a piece of land, stating, 'S'pose I went in with you guys. That's three hundred and fifty bucks I'd put in'. By juxtaposing their solitude with George and Lennie's friendship, Steinbeck underscores the importance of human connections in a world that often seems indifferent to the plight of the lonely. In doing so, he critiques the societal norms of the 1930s America, which perpetuated discrimination and allowed the vulnerable to fall through the cracks.
<a href="#">WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</a>  <input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose	<b>Complete</b> ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	The stark contrast between the warmth of George and Lennie's bond and the cold isolation faced by characters like Crooks and Candy ultimately serves to reinforce the novel's central message: that friendship and companionship are essential to the human spirit, even in the most unforgiving of circumstances.





<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)		
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - only focus on KEY IDEA #3
<u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Continuing his exploration of the theme of friendship and companionship, Steinbeck delves into the shared dream of George, Lennie, and eventually Candy and Crooks, to own a piece of land and live off 'the fatta the lan'.
<u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input type="checkbox"/> effects*	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	This dream, fueled by the desire for a sense of belonging and stability amidst the economic turmoil of the Great Depression, represents an escape from the harsh realities of their lives and symbolises the hope for a better future characterised by camaraderie and self-reliance. As George paints the idyllic picture of their dream, he highlights the notion of companionship, saying, 'With us, it ain't like that. We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us'. The ultimate collapse of the dream, with Lennie's accidental killing of Curley's wife and George's anguished decision to end Lennie's life—'You hadda, George. I swear you hadda' —is a tragic reminder of the fragility of human connections in a world where individualism and self-interest often prevail. The dissolution of their dream underscores the challenges faced by those seeking solace and support in an era defined by poverty, insecurity, and widespread despair.
<u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	As the novel draws to a close, the poignant loss of George and Lennie's shared dream serves as a stark testament to the enduring significance of friendship and companionship in the face of adversity.
Criteria	Status	CONCLUSION - <u>CRUCIAL!</u>
<u>Restated thesis AO1</u>  (Re-write your thesis statement in different words.)	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In conclusion, this essay has explored the themes of friendship, companionship, and shared dreams, which emerge as powerful forces that provide hope and resilience in the face of societal injustices and the harsh realities of the Great Depression.





<p><a href="#">Summary of controlling concept AO1</a></p> <p>How does your thesis link to the central theme of the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Overall, the controlling concept of friendship and companionship in <i>Of Mice and Men</i> showcases the essential role that these relationships play in providing hope, solace, and resilience in the face of adversity.</p>
<p><a href="#">Summary of author's central purpose AO1/AO3</a></p> <p>How does the controlling concept reflect the MAIN reason that the author wrote the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Steinbeck's portrayal of George and Lennie's bond, as well as the isolation experienced by other characters, serves as a powerful critique of a society that often neglects the needs of the vulnerable and emphasises the importance of human connections in overcoming life's challenges.</p>
<p><a href="#">Universal message AO1</a></p> <p>(What is the MAIN message of the text? Focus on the end.)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Through the portrayal of the bond between George and Lennie, as well as the isolation experienced by other characters, Steinbeck critiques the societal norms that neglect the vulnerable and emphasises the need for empathy and understanding in a harsh and unforgiving world.</p>

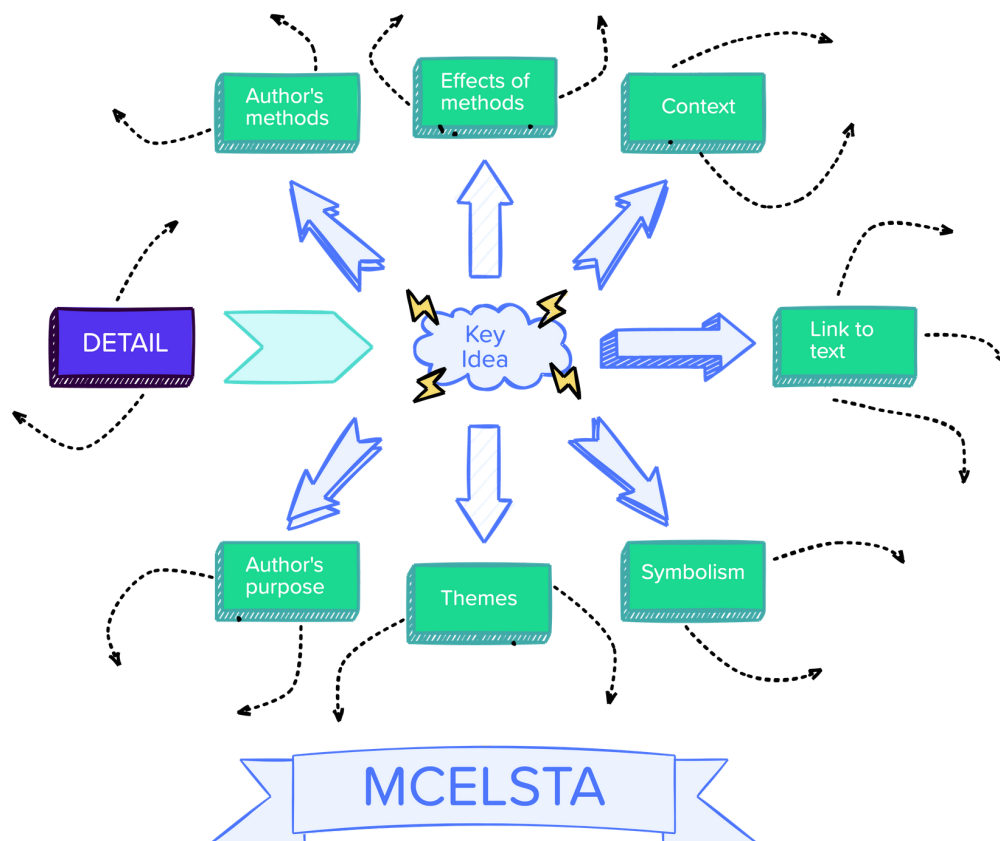




## STEP 2: ADDING DETAIL-Complete the *TTECEA* Checklist for Detail

1. To achieve a grade 9 level of detail, ensure that you link your key idea in each of your body paragraphs to as many of the elements of the *TTECEA* mnemonic as possible (aim to write about 650-950 words maximum for the entire essay)
2. You do not need to have each of the *TTECEA* elements in each paragraph, but make sure you have all of them in the entirety of your essay.
3. Each item on the checklist should only have 2 main purposes:
  - a. **to link to your key idea in each paragraph**
  - b. **and support your argument.**

- ☒ **TOPIC SENTENCE**: Introduce the key idea of your body paragraph.
- ☐ **TECHNIQUE**: Select a key technique the author uses (one you can explore in detail, eg, metaphor, simile, etc).
- ☒ **EVIDENCE**: EMBED a quote to back up your ideas.
- ☐ **CLOSE ANALYSIS**: Break the technique into smaller pieces, zoom in and analyse them PERCEPTIVELY.
- ☐ **EFFECTS ON THE READER\***: Explore what the author's method makes us focus on, feel (emotionally) or think.
- ☒ **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE**: Explore why the might want to make us feel a certain way about certain ideas.





## STEP 3: REVISING - Revise Your Essay

Ensure you have revised the following aspects of your essay:





- ☒ Removed/replaced ALL redundant repetition.
- ☒ Replaced ALL instances of the word 'shows' with more accurate and specific verbs for inferring effects of the author's methods (check toolkit).
- ☒ Revised essay for coherence: are the ideas in each of the paragraphs clearly connected to each other?
- ☒ Revised essay for cohesion: check the toolkit for help.
- ☒ Removed all instances of the following words and replace them with specific details of the topics you are exploring:
  - How
  - Shows
  - Some
  - Something
  - Thing
  - This
  - Way
  - What
- ☒ Your vocabulary is academic – no informal language unless quoting directly.
- ☒ Revised essay for clarity – is your essay easy to read? Ask a peer to read it and give you feedback.





## STEP 4: EDITING - Edit Your Essay

Ensure you have edited the following aspects of spelling, punctuation, and grammar:

- ☒ All words are spelt correctly.
- ☒ All sentences and names begin with a capital see guidelines below 
- ☒ All sentences end with a full stop.
- ☒  No sentences are separated with a comma  
- ☒ I used a comma before and after the following words or phrases:
  - for example,
  - however
- ☒ I have used ellipses to indicate missing words in quotes.
- ☒ I have used at least one semi-colon to separate or join closely related sentences.
  - The language paper focuses on various forms of writing; the literature paper focuses primarily on academic essay writing.
  - There are five keys to a grade 9 essay: structure, conceptualisation, context, detail, and convincing evidence.
- ☒ I have used a colon to introduce a quote, phrase, word, etc.

### HOW TO REMEMBER CAPITALS - **ABLE PRINTS**:

- **Abbreviations:** **U.K., USA, UAE**
- **Beginnings of sentences:** **N**obody saw it coming.
- **Languages:** **F**rench, **S**panish, **I**talian, **A**rabic,
- **Emphasis - I LOVE CHEESE!** (avoid this)
  
- **Places:** **A**frica, **M**ecca, **L**ondon, **Z**imbabwe
- **Religions and words related to them:** **I**slam/**M**uslim, **C**hristianity/**C**hristian, **J**udaism/**J**ewish, **H**induism/**H**indu
- **I, as in me**
- **Names (specific) of people, places, businesses, e.g.,** **S**hakespeare, **A**pple, **L**ondon.
- **Titles of books, movies, or programmes, e.g.,** **T**he **L**ion **K**ing, **M**acbeth,
- **Special days:** **E**id, **C**hristmas, **D**iwali

### SPAG RULES

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/category/handbook/>





## **STEP 5: COMPLETE - Put Your Essay Together as One Complete Piece**

In a world ravaged by the Great Depression, where the dust of failed dreams and desolation hung heavy in the air, John Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men' illuminates the enduring power of friendship and companionship as a beacon of hope amidst the darkness of a seemingly hopeless era. Delving into the complex relationship between the novel's protagonists, George and Lennie, Steinbeck masterfully explores the intricate dynamics of their companionship, which defies the prevailing individualism that marked the tumultuous 1930s. Consequently, this essay will explore the themes of friendship, companionship, and shared dreams which emerge as powerful forces that offer hope and resilience in the face of societal injustices and the harsh realities of the Great Depression.

At the heart of the novel lies the unique and powerful bond between George and Lennie, which provides both men with a sense of purpose and belonging amidst the harsh realities of the Great Depression. Steinbeck skillfully employs dialogues and interactions to showcase their deep understanding of each other, offering a glimpse into the strength of their connection. For instance, when George says, 'I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you', the reader can perceive the symbiotic nature of their relationship. Furthermore, George's reassurance to Lennie, 'Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don't belong no place... With us it ain't like that. We got a future', emphasises the importance of their companionship in a world where isolation is the norm. This sense of belonging is especially significant in the context of the 1930s America, where the economic downturn left countless individuals without a support system, struggling to find stability and solace. Through the portrayal of George and Lennie's friendship, Steinbeck not only highlights the importance of human connection during such trying times but also offers a poignant critique of the society that neglected the needs of the vulnerable, pushing them further into isolation and despair. In doing so, Steinbeck reminds the reader that, as Lennie puts it, 'it's a lot nicer to go around with a guy you know', emphasising the life-affirming power of companionship in an otherwise unforgiving world.

Building upon the central theme of friendship and companionship, Steinbeck contrasts the profound connection between George and Lennie with the isolation experienced by other characters, who serve as poignant reminders of the societal injustices prevalent during the Great Depression. For example, Crooks, the African American stable hand, is marginalised due to his race and suffers the harsh consequences of racial segregation, being forced to live apart from the other workers. Candy, an old swamper, faces loneliness due to his age and physical disability, which renders him of little use in the able-bodied world of ranch work. These characters are longing for companionship, as illustrated by Crooks' confession: 'A guy needs somebody - to be near him... A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody' and Candy's eagerness to join George and Lennie's dream of owning a piece of land, stating, 'S'pose I went in with you guys. That's three hundred and fifty bucks I'd put in'. By juxtaposing their solitude with George and Lennie's friendship, Steinbeck underscores the importance of human connections in a world that often seems indifferent to the plight of the lonely. In doing so, he critiques the societal norms of the 1930s America, which perpetuated discrimination and allowed the vulnerable to fall through the cracks. The stark contrast between the warmth of George and Lennie's bond and the cold isolation faced by characters like Crooks and Candy ultimately serves to reinforce the novel's central message: that friendship and companionship are essential to the human spirit, even in the most unforgiving of circumstances.

Continuing his exploration of the theme of friendship and companionship, Steinbeck delves into the shared dream of George, Lennie, and eventually Candy and Crooks, to own a piece of land and live off 'the fatta the lan'. This dream, fueled by the desire for a sense of belonging and stability amidst the economic turmoil of the Great Depression, represents an escape from the harsh realities of their lives and symbolises the hope for a better future characterised





by camaraderie and self-reliance. As George paints the idyllic picture of their dream, he highlights the notion of companionship, saying, 'With us, it ain't like that. We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us'. The ultimate collapse of the dream, with Lennie's accidental killing of Curley's wife and George's anguished decision to end Lennie's life—'You hadda, George. I swear you hadda' —is a tragic reminder of the fragility of human connections in a world where individualism and self-interest often prevail. The dissolution of their dream underscores the challenges faced by those seeking solace and support in an era defined by poverty, insecurity, and widespread despair. As the novel draws to a close, the poignant loss of George and Lennie's shared dream serves as a stark testament to the enduring significance of friendship and companionship in the face of adversity.

In conclusion, this essay has explored the themes of friendship, companionship, and shared dreams, which emerge as powerful forces that provide hope and resilience in the face of societal injustices and the harsh realities of the Great Depression. Overall, the controlling concept of friendship and companionship in *Of Mice and Men* showcases the essential role that these relationships play in providing hope, solace, and resilience in the face of adversity. Steinbeck's portrayal of George and Lennie's bond, as well as the isolation experienced by other characters, serves as a powerful critique of a society that often neglects the needs of the vulnerable and emphasises the importance of human connections in overcoming life's challenges. Through the portrayal of the bond between George and Lennie, as well as the isolation experienced by other characters, Steinbeck critiques the societal norms that neglect the vulnerable and emphasises the need for empathy and understanding in a harsh and unforgiving world.

