



## *THE AMERICAN DREAM*

! 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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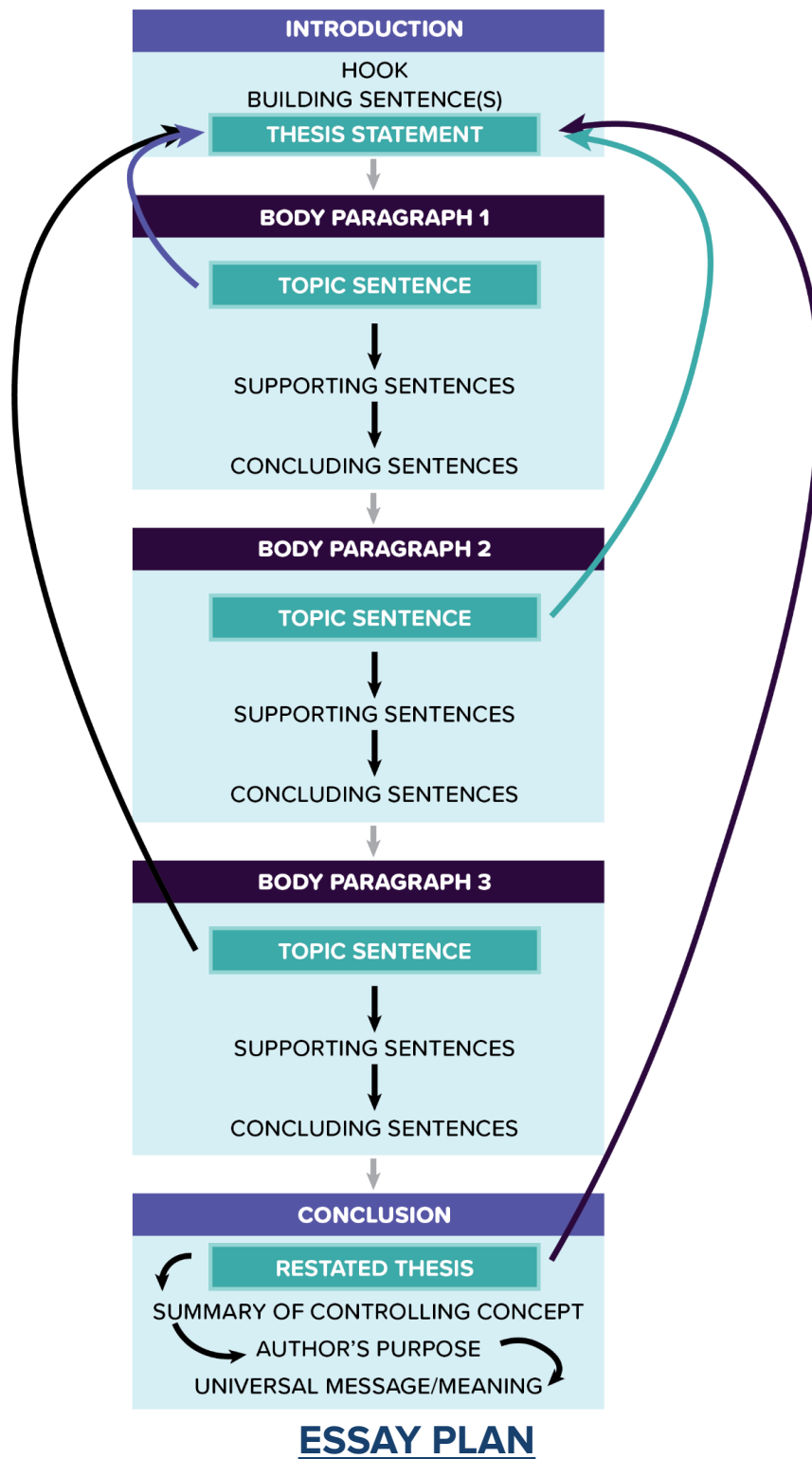
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## **100% ESSAY STRUCTURE OVERVIEW**







- A. Connection to the modern-day relevance of the American Dream
- B. Overview of how the novel explores the American Dream through characters' aspirations and struggles

## II. The Great Depression and migrant workers

- A. Economic hardship as an external factor
- B. George and Lennie's shared dream of owning land
- C. The desire for stability and self-sufficiency

## III. The elderly and disabled: Candy's quest for belonging and purpose

- A. Candy's dream to join George and Lennie's farm plan
- B. The loss of Candy's dog and his fear of being discarded
- C. The challenges faced by the elderly and disabled during the Great Depression

## IV. Racial discrimination: Crooks' struggle for equality and acceptance

- A. Crooks' desire for a life free from prejudice
- B. The social barriers faced by African Americans during the Great Depression
- C. The limitations of the American Dream for marginalized individuals

## V. Conclusion

- A. Summary of how the novel explores the American Dream through characters' unique challenges
- B. Steinbeck's emphasis on friendship, compassion, and human connection in the face of adversity
- C. The novel's reminder of the power of companionship and the need for empathy and understanding





## 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)	"Sadly, the American dream is dead," Donald Trump proclaimed when he announced his candidacy for president of the United States.'
<u>Building sentence(s) AO3</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> counter-argument OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> some contextual info	Complete ▾  (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Although it is often believed that Steinbeck's depiction of farm life in the 1930s is no longer pertinent to modern times, Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign highlighted the fact that the issues in the novel are very much still prevalent.
<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)	In Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," the elusive nature of the American Dream is explored through the diverse aspirations and struggles of the characters, revealing how external factors such as the Great Depression and internal struggles, including age, disability, and racial discrimination, limit the attainment of the dream for various individuals, emphasising the harsh realities faced during times of crisis.
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)	The various interpretations of the American Dream in "Of Mice and Men" emphasise its elusive nature, as each character's dream appears unattainable due to a combination of external factors and internal struggles.
<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)	One such external factor is the widespread economic hardship experienced during the Great Depression, which greatly impacted the lives of the working class. This context is evident in the novel when George and Lennie, like many migrant workers of the time, are forced to travel from job to job in search of steady work. These itinerant labourers were a product of the economic collapse and widespread unemployment that characterised the Great Depression. Migrant workers often faced harsh conditions, low wages, and exploitation by landowners, making it difficult for them to establish stable lives. George laments the predicament of migrant workers, saying, "Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world... They got no family. They





		<p>don't belong no place... With us it ain't like that. We got a future". Here, George recognises the instability and loneliness inherent in the life of a migrant worker, emphasising the difficulty of achieving the American Dream under such circumstances. Consequently, the dream of owning a piece of land, which George and Lennie share, is representative of the desire for stability and self-sufficiency that many migrant workers sought during the Great Depression. However, the harsh reality of their lives often made such dreams unattainable. When George and Lennie discuss their plan, George says, "We'd just live there. We'd belong there. There wouldn't be no more runnin' round the country and gettin' fed by a Jap cook. No, sir, we'd have our own place where we belonged and not sleep in no bunkhouse". Therefore, the American Dream, in the context of "Of Mice and Men," is not merely about the acquisition of material wealth, but also about finding a sense of belonging, stability, and control over one's own destiny.</p>
<p><a href="#">WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Thus, the characters' struggle to achieve their dreams in the face of economic hardship and societal constraints highlights the limitations of the American Dream, especially during times of crisis.</p>
<p><b>Criteria</b></p>	<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p><b>BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - only focus on KEY IDEA #2</b></p>
<p><a href="#">WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</a></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 2</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Additionally, Candy's quest for a sense of belonging and purpose amidst the harsh realities of the Great Depression illustrates the challenges faced by the elderly and disabled in achieving their version of the American Dream.</p>
<p><a href="#">HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> terminology</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> close analysis</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> effects*</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Candy, the aging swamper with a missing hand, is another character who aspires to fulfill his version of the American Dream in Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men." He yearns to find a sense of belonging and purpose in his twilight years, which he believes he can achieve by joining George and Lennie in their pursuit of owning a farm. When Candy overhears George and Lennie discussing their dream, he becomes excited and offers to pitch in with his life savings, saying, "I'd make a will an' leave my share to you guys in case I kick off, 'cause I ain't got no relatives nor nothing". Consequently, Steinbeck demonstrates Candy's deep</p>





		<p>desire to be part of something meaningful and secure in his later years. Candy's longing for a place to belong is further emphasised when he laments the loss of his old dog, which had been his sole companion for years. He admits to George, "I ought to have shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't ought to have let no stranger shoot my dog". The dog's death serves as a stark reminder of Candy's own mortality and his fear of being discarded when he is no longer deemed useful. However, Candy's physical limitations and age make it difficult for him to contribute to this dream in a meaningful way, rendering his aspirations unattainable. In many ways, Candy's predicament reflects those faced by the elderly and disabled during the Great Depression, when the novel is set; the elderly and disabled often faced significant hardships, as they struggled to find employment and support themselves.</p>
<p><a href="#">WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Candy's missing hand, a result of an accident on the ranch, symbolises his diminished ability to work and contribute to the farm dream he shares with George and Lennie.</p>
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - only focus on KEY IDEA #3
<p><a href="#">WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</a></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Crooks is another character who embodies the struggle for equality and acceptance within the context of the American Dream, highlighting the barriers faced by marginalised individuals during the racially charged era of the 1930s.</p>
<p><a href="#">HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> terminology</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> close analysis</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> effects*</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>His desire for a place where he can live and work without prejudice is another representation of the American Dream, emphasising the notion that all men are created equal, as enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. However, the pervasive racism and segregation of the time make it nearly impossible for Crooks to achieve his dream. As the only African American character in the novel, Crooks provides a stark reminder of the racial discrimination that was prevalent during the 1930s as he is segregated from the rest of the ranch workers, and forced to live in a separate room attached to the barn. This isolation highlights the social barriers that existed for African Americans during the Great Depression. Crooks himself acknowledges the impact of racial prejudice on his life,</p>





		<p>lamenting, "A guy needs somebody—to be near him... A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody". Despite his marginalised status, Crooks dreams of a life free from discrimination, where he can be treated as an equal. This longing for equality is reflected in his conversation with Lennie about George and Lennie's dream of owning their own farm. When Lennie naively extends an invitation for Crooks to join them, Crooks responds with a mix of skepticism and hope: "If you... guys would want a hand to work for nothing—just his keep, why I'd come an' lend a hand. I ain't so crippled I can't work like a son-of-a-gun if I want to". However, the harsh reality of the racial hierarchy in American society during the 1930s makes it difficult for Crooks to envision a future where he can achieve his dream.</p>
<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Therefore, the novel poignantly illustrates the limitations of the American Dream for marginalised individuals like Crooks, who face barriers not only due to economic hardship but also because of societal prejudice and discrimination.</p>
Criteria	Status	CONCLUSION - <u>CRUCIAL!</u>
<p><u>Restated thesis AO1</u></p> <p>(Re-write your thesis statement in different words.)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>To conclude, Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" delves into the complex facets of the American Dream by examining the distinct desires and challenges of its characters, showcasing how the Great Depression, along with personal obstacles such as age, disability, and racial prejudice, hinder the realisation of the dream, underscoring the harsh truths confronted during periods of turmoil.</p>
<p><u>Summary of controlling concept AO1</u></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>In fact, Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" could be said to be primarily focusing on the elusive nature of the American Dream, by exploring the unattainability of personal dreams and aspirations due to external factors such as economic hardship, societal expectations, and internal struggles, like personal limitations and conflicting desires.</p>
<p><u>Summary of author's central purpose AO1/AO3</u></p> <p>How does the controlling concept reflect the</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Overall, Steinbeck's purpose in "Of Mice and Men" may be to provide a realistic and empathetic portrayal of life during the Great Depression while exploring themes of human connection, the American Dream, and social injustice.</p>







MAIN reason that the author wrote the text?		
<u>Universal message AO1</u>  (What is the MAIN message of the text? Focus on the end.)	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	However, what becomes apparent to the reader is that Steinbeck emphasises the importance of friendship, compassion, and human connection in the face of adversity, loneliness, and alienation. The novel serves as a reminder of the power of companionship and the need for empathy and understanding towards those who are marginalised or facing hardships.

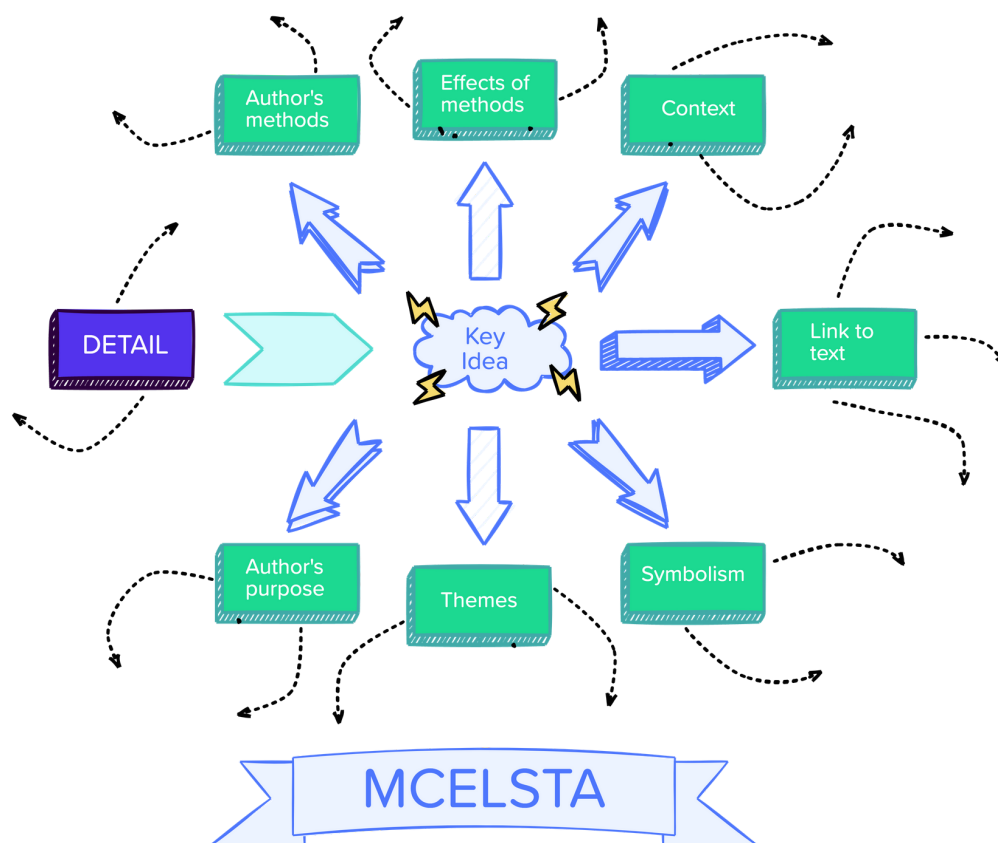




## STEP 2: ADDING DETAIL-Complete the *TTECEA* Checklist for Detail

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: Nobody** saw it coming.
- **Languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic,**
- **Emphasis - I LOVE CHEESE!** (avoid this)
  
- **Places: Africa, Mecca, London, Zimbabwe**
- **Religions and words related to them: Islam/Muslim, Christianity/Christian, Judaism/Jewish, Hinduism/Hindu**
- **I, as in me**
- **Names (specific) of people, places, businesses, e.g., Shakespeare, Apple, London.**
- **Titles of books, movies, or programmes, e.g., The Lion King, Macbeth,**
- **Special days: Eid, Christmas, Diwali**

### SPAG RULES

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





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

“Sadly, the American dream is dead,” Donald Trump proclaimed when he announced his candidacy for president of the United States.’ Although it is often believed that Steinbeck’s depiction of farm life in the 1930s is no longer pertinent to modern times, Donald Trump’s 2016 election campaign highlighted the fact that the issues in the novel are very much still prevalent. In Steinbeck’s “Of Mice and Men,” the elusive nature of the American Dream is explored through the diverse aspirations and struggles of the characters, revealing how external factors such as the Great Depression and internal struggles, including age, disability, and racial discrimination, limit the attainment of the dream for various individuals, emphasising the harsh realities faced during times of crisis.

The various interpretations of the American Dream in “Of Mice and Men” emphasise its elusive nature, as each character’s dream appears unattainable due to a combination of external factors and internal struggles. One such external factor is the widespread economic hardship experienced during the Great Depression, which greatly impacted the lives of the working class. This context is evident in the novel when George and Lennie, like many migrant workers of the time, are forced to travel from job to job in search of steady work. These itinerant labourers were a product of the economic collapse and widespread unemployment that characterised the Great Depression. Migrant workers often faced harsh conditions, low wages, and exploitation by landowners, making it difficult for them to establish stable lives. George laments the predicament of migrant workers, saying, “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”. Here, George recognises the instability and loneliness inherent in the life of a migrant worker, emphasising the difficulty of achieving the American Dream under such circumstances. Consequently, the dream of owning a piece of land, which George and Lennie share, is representative of the desire for stability and self-sufficiency that many migrant workers sought during the Great Depression. However, the harsh reality of their lives often made such dreams unattainable. When George and Lennie discuss their plan, George says, “We’d just live there. We’d belong there. There wouldn’t be no more runnin’ round the country and gettin’ fed by a Jap cook. No, sir, we’d have our own place where we belonged and not sleep in no bunkhouse”. Therefore, the American Dream, in the context of “Of Mice and Men,” is not merely about the acquisition of material wealth, but also about finding a sense of belonging, stability, and control over one’s own destiny. Thus, the characters’ struggle to achieve their dreams in the face of economic hardship and societal constraints highlights the limitations of the American Dream, especially during times of crisis.

Additionally, Candy’s quest for a sense of belonging and purpose amidst the harsh realities of the Great Depression illustrates the challenges faced by the elderly and disabled in achieving their version of the American Dream. Candy, the aging swamper with a missing hand, is another character who aspires to fulfill his version of the American Dream in Steinbeck’s “Of Mice and Men.” He yearns to find a sense of belonging and purpose in his twilight years, which he believes he can achieve by joining George and Lennie in their pursuit of owning a farm. When Candy overhears George and Lennie discussing their dream, he becomes excited and offers to pitch in with his life savings, saying, “I’d make a will an’ leave my share to you guys in case I kick off, ‘cause I ain’t got no relatives nor nothing”. Consequently, Steinbeck demonstrates Candy’s deep desire to be part of something meaningful and secure in his later years. Candy’s longing for a place to belong is further emphasised when he laments the loss of his old dog, which had been his sole companion for years. He admits to George, “I ought to have shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn’t ought to have let no stranger shoot my dog”. The dog’s death serves as a stark reminder of Candy’s own mortality and his fear of being discarded when he is no longer deemed useful. However, Candy’s physical limitations and age make it difficult for him to contribute to this dream in a meaningful way, rendering his aspirations unattainable. In many ways, Candy’s predicament reflects those faced by the elderly and disabled during the Great Depression, when the novel is





set; the elderly and disabled often faced significant hardships, as they struggled to find employment and support themselves. Candy's missing hand, a result of an accident on the ranch, symbolises his diminished ability to work and contribute to the farm dream he shares with George and Lennie.

Crooks is another character who embodies the struggle for equality and acceptance within the context of the American Dream, highlighting the barriers faced by marginalised individuals during the racially charged era of the 1930s. His desire for a place where he can live and work without prejudice is another representation of the American Dream, emphasising the notion that all men are created equal, as enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. However, the pervasive racism and segregation of the time make it nearly impossible for Crooks to achieve his dream. As the only African American character in the novel, Crooks provides a stark reminder of the racial discrimination that was prevalent during the 1930s as he is segregated from the rest of the ranch workers, and forced to live in a separate room attached to the barn. This isolation highlights the social barriers that existed for African Americans during the Great Depression. Crooks himself acknowledges the impact of racial prejudice on his life, lamenting, "A guy needs somebody—to be near him... A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody". Despite his marginalised status, Crooks dreams of a life free from discrimination, where he can be treated as an equal. This longing for equality is reflected in his conversation with Lennie about George and Lennie's dream of owning their own farm. When Lennie naively extends an invitation for Crooks to join them, Crooks responds with a mix of skepticism and hope: "If you... guys would want a hand to work for nothing—just his keep, why I'd come an' lend a hand. I ain't so crippled I can't work like a son-of-a-gun if I want to". However, the harsh reality of the racial hierarchy in American society during the 1930s makes it difficult for Crooks to envision a future where he can achieve his dream. Therefore, the novel poignantly illustrates the limitations of the American Dream for marginalised individuals like Crooks, who face barriers not only due to economic hardship but also because of societal prejudice and discrimination.

To conclude, Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" delves into the complex facets of the American Dream by examining the distinct desires and challenges of its characters, showcasing how the Great Depression, along with personal obstacles such as age, disability, and racial prejudice, hinder the realisation of the dream, underscoring the harsh truths confronted during periods of turmoil. In fact, Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" could be said to be primarily focusing on the elusive nature of the American Dream, by exploring the unattainability of personal dreams and aspirations due to external factors such as economic hardship, societal expectations, and internal struggles, like personal limitations and conflicting desires. Overall, Steinbeck's purpose in "Of Mice and Men" may be to provide a realistic and empathetic portrayal of life during the Great Depression while exploring themes of human connection, the American Dream, and social injustice. However, what becomes apparent to the reader is that Steinbeck emphasises the importance of friendship, compassion, and human connection in the face of adversity, loneliness, and alienation. The novel serves as a reminder of the power of companionship and the need for empathy and understanding towards those who are marginalised or facing hardships.

