Of Mice and Men

WebQuest Description: Background information for Of Mice and Men written by John Steinbeck.
Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: John Steinbeck, Literature, Of mice and men, highschool
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Introduction

John Steinbeck wrote Of Mice and Men in 1937, during the Great Depression. The setting for his novella is Salinas Valley, California where Steinbeck also lived. In order to give you a better understanding of the story, you are about to complete a webquest. As you complete and share the information in the webquest you will have a better understanding of the time in which John Steinbeck lived, his purpose for writing Of Mice and Men, and the characters' motives.

Tasks

The purpose of this webquest is to give you background knowledge about the story and its characters. It will also help you understand the author and the times in which the Of Mice and Men was written. Please visit the links and answer the questions. This webquest must be completed during today's class period only so please be diligent in completing your research and the questions. Use Microsoft Word to type the answers to the questions, or use your own piece of paper. Visit each link and take notes if needed, but DO NOT visit other sites. So let's get start!

1. During the 1930's, why did workers want to come to California?
2. How were migrant workers affected by the Great Depression?
3. What was the Great Depression? When did it occur? What events caused it? When did it end?
4. What is the role of friendship in caring for the mentally disabled?
5. How were mentally disabled people treated in the 1930's?
6. What are a few major facts about Steinbeck's life?
7. What was John Steinbeck's relationship to the Salinas Valley?
8. Where are Weed, Salinas, and the Salinas River located?
9. What was Steinbeck's purpose for writing Of Mice and Men?

Evaluation

The following will determine your grade for the webquest.

A (90-100)- Answered all questions in complete sentences. Gave good detail and supporting ideas.
B (80-89)- All questions were answered, however lacking good detail.
C (70-79)- All questions were answered, however lacking good detail and supporting ideas.
D (60-69)- All questions were answered, however lacking good detail and supporting ideas, and student did not use complete sentences.
F (60 or below)- Not all questions were answered, lacked good detail and supporting ideas, and student did not use complete questions.

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Total Score

Conclusion

Your journey into the background and issues that influenced the writing of Of Mice and Men has come to an end, but the trip is far from over! You are now ready to embark on a literary journey into the world of George and Lennie, the Salinas Valley, migrant farm workers, loneliness and friendship, poverty and dreams, and despair and hope.