Historical Background "Of Mice and Men"

WebQuest Description:
Grade Level:
Curriculum:
Keywords:
Published On: 2015-08-10 10:55:38
Last Modified: 2015-08-05 12:10:40
WebQuest URL: http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=292354

Introduction

After watching the video over the historical background on "Of Mice and Men," answer the following question as a group. Imagine yourself as a migrant worker or farmer during the 1930's. What are some of the struggles or conflicts that you would have faced and what would you have done to help alleviate or solve those problems? Discuss with your group members and write down a well-developed and thoughtful response.

John Steinbeck wrote Of Mice and Men in order to express his social conscience about America in the 1930's. Of Mice and Men is a novel about dreams, friendship, loneliness, and hope. Through the memorable characters of George and Lennie, Steinbeck paints a portrait of enduring friendship that we all can learn from. In order to help you understand the context of the novel and how it still resonates today, you are about to embark on a WebQuest that will lay the foundation for deeper understanding of the text, the time period, and the author.

Tasks

The Question: What historical, geographic, and social issues influenced John Steinbeck to write Of Mice and Men? Everyone in the class will become either a sociologist, a historian, a psychiatrist, or a biographer and will make a presentation to the class which will include answers to the assigned questions in the form of key points and visual representations of what you have learned. The medium for the visuals and presentation should be a digital / multimedia platform. You may choose to present on Prezi, Facebook, Instagram, a website, a blog, a Facebook account, or any other technology platform.

Process

1. In your group, you should divide responsibility for researching certain questions. I recommend that two students tackle the historian/sociologist questions and two students tackle the psychiatrist/biographer questions for a total of four students per group.
2. Closely examine the pages under your group’s heading. Click on the links to the sites. Take notes on every site that you visit. (Do not forget to take note of the URL so that you can cite your source.)
3. DO NOT SEARCH ON THE OPEN WEB! Please stick to the web pages I have provided you.
4. DO NOT COPY AND PASTE information as this is considered plagiarism. You will read the information and rewrite it in your own words (you still must cite the information as it did not come from your own brain).
5. Compile the answers to the questions on a multimedia/digital platform and pick images/visuals that complement your answers.
6. Be prepared to present the information and focus what you have learned into one main opinion that answers the Big Question based on what you have learned.

Evaluation

Click on the rubric for details about what you will be graded on for this presentation.

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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.

This WebQuest helps students delve into the historical background for John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* to allow students to understand the context of the novel's plot.

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**