

Thematic

Essay question.

On the exam, you have 40 minutes to complete these types of question.

You will need to write 6. If you've not written at least two pages in the exam, you'll struggle to get enough marks to pass.

Loneliness

INTRO – What was life like in 1930s America?

What is loneliness?

What is Steinbeck's message on loneliness?



Crooks

Explain why he is lonely.

Refer to parts of the novel where we see he is lonely.

Consider the ways that he speaks to others and they speak to him.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s



Curley's Wife

Explain why he is lonely.

Refer to parts of the novel where we see he is lonely.

Consider the way she speaks to others and they speak to her.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s



Candy

Explain why he is lonely.

Refer to parts of the novel where we see he is lonely.

Consider the way he speaks to others and they speak to him.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s



George and Lennie

Explain why they may not be considered lonely.

Refer to parts of the novel where we see their friendship flourish.

Consider the way they speak to others and how others speak to them.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s



Conclusion

What do we learn about loneliness from the book?

What do you learn about loneliness in the 1930s from the book?

Dreams

INTRO – What was life like in 1930s America?

Why did people need dreams?

What is Steinbeck's message on the inevitable failure of dreams?

Crooks

Explain what his dream is.

Refer to parts of the novel where we can infer that he was dreaming.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s – why will that dream fail?

Curley's Wife

Explain what her dream is.

Refer to parts of the novel where we can infer what her dream is.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s – why will that dream fail?

Conclusion

What do we learn about dreams from the book?

What do you learn about dreams in the 1930s from the book?

George and Lennie

Explain what their dream is.

Refer to parts of the novel where we hear about their dream.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s – why will their dream fail?

Candy

Explain what his dream is.

Refer to parts of the novel where we hear about his dream.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s – why will that dream fail?

Discrimination/prejudice

INTRO – What was life like in 1930s America?

What is discrimination?

What is Steinbeck's message on the survival of the fittest mentality in 1930s America?

Crooks

Explain how he is discriminated against

Refer to parts of the novel where we can see he is discriminated against/he discriminates against others.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s – how did they treat people of colour?

Curley's Wife

Explain how she is discriminated against/

Refer to parts of the novel where we see her discriminated against/her discriminating against others.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s – How were women treated?

Conclusion

What do we learn about discrimination from the book?

What do you learn about discrimination in the 1930s from the book?

Lennie

Explain how he is discriminated against.

Refer to parts of the novel where we see this discrimination in action.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s – How were the mentally disabled treated?

Candy

Explain how he is discriminated against.

Refer to parts of the novel where we see him being discriminated against.

Include a quotation from the book.

Link to what it shows about life in America in the 1930s – How were the elderly treated in 1930s America?

Violence

INTRO – What was life like in 1930s America?

Explain how this contributed to the prevalence of violence

Curley

Explain how he is a violent character

Discuss Curley's aggressive behaviour and the fight scene with Lennie - include quotations.

Discuss how Curley's violent character is indicative of the toxic masculinity and the societal pressure on men in the 1930s to assert dominance through physical strength.

George

Explain George could be considered a violent character

Discuss the scene where George kills Lennie as an act of mercy - include quotations.

Discuss how this act of violence reflects the harsh realities of 1930s America, where survival often took precedence over morality.

Conclusion

What do we learn about violence from the book?

What do you learn about violence in the 1930s from the book?

Lennie

Explain how Lennie is a violent character

Discuss Lennie's violent act of killing the puppy and Curley's wife - include quotations.

Discuss how Lennie's unintentional violence demonstrates the lack of mental health understanding in the 1930s and the consequences of such ignorance.

Crooks

Explain how he is others feel like they can be violent towards him.

Discuss the scene where Crooks is threatened by Curley's wife - include quotations.

Discuss how the violence and discrimination against Crooks highlight the racial prejudice and segregation in 1930s America.