

Style of mice and men

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For example, while George explains that he sticks to Lenny because you get used to going around with a guy' you can't get rid of him, what he really says is that their friendship is the only thing he's ever really had to hold on to. It's more water to run deep than OMG you my BFFL. Again, Steinbeck uses his writing style as another medium to suggest that every story is important, no matter whose story it is. Although these characters are employees without access to great dictionaries or great philosophies, they can still communicate about things that really matter. Join today and never see them again. When you enter your email address, you agree to receive emails from Shmoop and check that you are over 13 years old. People like George and Lenny were widely known as bindlestiffs during Steinbeck's time and the author got most of his source of material for mice and men from the time he spent working on farms in this valley of the Salinas River. Because of his time in the company of these people, Steinbeck portrays these people realistically, through colorful language, slang, vulgar words and racial epithets that mimic the way farmers actually spoke to each other on the ranch. Steinbeck gained considerable acclaim for his realistic portrayal of this segment of the population during the America's Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. Foreshadowing early on, George describes the mice that Lenny killed, albeit unintentionally, in the past. When Slim gives Lenny one of his newborn puppies, readers will probably guess that it's only a matter of time before the dog experiences the same fate as Lenny's former pets. Lenny's penchant for harming delicate things, coupled with the fact that he and George were fleeing his previous town, leads readers to believe that when Curley's wife finds herself alone with Lenny, disaster, Step. George's repeated instructions for Lenny to hide in the brush if trouble arises along with the knowledge that Lenny got into trouble in the previous town foreshadows that Lenny will be find themselves in an anxious situation soon. The death of Candy's dog in the style of execution to pull her out of suffering, foreshadows George's decision for the same reason to end Lenny's life. Candy's constant regret that he didn't shoot his dog himself also hints at George's decision to end Lenny's life himself, instead of leaving Lenny's fate in the hands of the crowd. Steinbeck's dramatic structure is built by mice and men as a drama that makes the chapters feel just like the scenes in the play. For example, each chapter takes place in one physical space, and much of the story is transmitted through dialogue between a relatively small cast of characters. In order to continue to use our website, we ask you to confirm your identity as a person. Thank you so much for your cooperation. The style of mice and men is objective and factual, reflecting Steinbeck's intention that history can be read as a story or performed as a play. The descriptive passages are as specific as the scenic directions: The two-tiered house was a long rectangular building. Inside the walls were whitewashed, and the floor was unpainted. As the play, mice and men have no writing aisles that tell us directly what the characters think and feel. Instead, the characters' thoughts and feelings are conveyed through descriptions of their manners and personalities, as well as through dialogue. The narrator does not condone or condemn the actions of the characters. For example, when George fatally shoots Lenny at the end, the narrator simply declares: He pulled the trigger. Excluding the opinion about the events of the story, Steinbeck allows readers to judge for themselves who is actually to blame for the tragic conclusion. Mice and men are structured around a dialogue written on the slang of migrant workers during the Great Depression. George and Lenny embody Steinbeck's American struggles faced by ranchers in California, and their conversations reflect the uneducated language Steinbeck actually heard. Lenny mentions life from fatta lan after George describes how they are going to get a nest together and build their own manor one day. Along with slang used by Candy, Crooks and other ranch-hands, this spoken language is located by George and Lenny's experience in a real-life Depression-era scenario: poor, uneducated workers talk and dream of a better life. Mice and Men is a short novel, or novella, but it bears a resemblance to a play in the use of natural dialogue and minimal description. Learn about its cyclical structure and the use of repetition. Download Literary Terms as a Word File (69KB) Discipline Language Arts, History, Performing Arts Score 7-12 Type of Activity Small Group, Individual, Whole Class, Oral Presentation, Current, Writing, Performing Arts Goals Students will understand the basic literary terms of mice and men and be able to provide specific definitions and Students will be able to use/show literary terms in their own writing. Students will be able to successfully pass quizzes based on definitions/examples of literary terms. The review is important for students to be able to understand, define and apply literary terms to any work of literature they encounter. In their notebooks, students must keep a growing bank of literary terms related to the novel. Materials needed / Preparation Estimated learning time and application of literary terms is a constant activity. The amount of time spent is at the discretion of individual teachers. Procedures After the teacher has entered the original terms as needed (see below), students should be able to not only define the terms, but specify specific examples of each of the novel itself. They should put these original terms/examples in their notebooks. Teachers should be careful not to give away plot elements when providing examples. There are two examples for each of the original literary terms: 1) actual examples of mice and men (which will be provided as this moment in history is reached) and 2) a more general example (which will be used for initial discussions). Pointing to such examples can be done in pairs or threes in front of the class. For more creative students, such examples can be used. For example, for magical realism, students will define the term and then briefly unravel scenes at the end of a novel involving Lenny and the giant rabbit and Lenny and Aunt Clara. Students in the classroom will take note and then be tested on terms. This is an initial list of terms that should be studied early during the novel. The full list can be found here. Preliminary literary terms for mice and men all reference the page number from the 1993 Penguin Books edition. Impersonation - Providing human qualities (quality, feeling, action, or characteristics) to uninhabited objects (things, colors, qualities, or ideas). A common example: The wind danced into the room. Of mice and men Example: Shadow rose up hills to the top (2). Comparison is an act or case of placing two or more things side by side. A common example: Judy went to the mall with her friends who loved frequent clothing stores. Judy preferred bookstores. Example of mice and men: First, the description of the Valley of the Salinas River, where George and Lenny sleep before a trip to the ranch, seems idyllic and Eden-like. The water is also warm because it slipped shimmering over the yellow sands in sunlight before reaching a narrow pond (1). Soon, the area seems like a more sinister place as George instructs Lenny to hide here if he gets into any trouble. Lenny-if you jus', happens to get into trouble, as you've always done before, I want you to come right here ' hide in the brush' (15). Symbolism is that something else by association, similarity or convention, especially the material object used for something else. A common example: the American flag. (See Symbolism more.) Example of mice and men: Rabbits represent Lenny's naive dreams of the earth during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Lenny constantly talks about growing rabbits on a ranch he and George hope to own. Ahn has rabbits. Come on, George! Tell us about what we will have in the garden and about rabbits in cages... Foreshadowing - When the author gives clues about what might happen later in the story. A general example: In the play, the main character in the first act can show the audience that he has a gun, placing it in his pocket. Later, in the third act, he was attacked and was able to defend himself with a gun. Of the Mice and Men Example: When Lenny reveals he has a dead mouse in his pocket, George questions him. Uh-uh. Juice is a dead mouse. George. I didn't kill him. Honest! I found it. I found him dead (5). This foreshadows the death of the puppy Lenny and the death of his wife Curley. Simile -Comparison generally unlike objects that use likes or like. A general example: His fingers looked like tree branches. Of mice and men Example: On sandy shores rabbits sat as quietly as small gray, sculptural stones (2). Metaphor - Direct comparison generally unlike objects that do not use likes or how. A common example: His fingers are the branches of trees that have scraped the side of the house. Of the mice and the male example: Lenny dabbled in a big paw in the water... Conflict is a problem or unresolved issue in history. A general example: Judy wants to finish her homework, but her friend wants her to go to the mall. Judy's confused about what to do. Of the Mice and Men Example: George says Lenny: God is mighty, if I were alone, I could live so easily. I could get a job 'work,' no problem... You do bad things and I have to get you out (11). Lenny replies, George, do you want me to go away and leave you alone? (12). Climax is a turning point in history. A common example: Judy goes to the mall without doing her homework, and encounters her English teacher, who asks about her work. Of the Mice and Men Example: One of the first major turning points when George and Lenny arrive late at the ranch: The ranch boss is angry with them and suspicious of George when he speaks for Lenny (21-23). Resolution - Conflict Resolution presented in history. A common example: Judy, being smart and efficient in time, is able to do both homework and go to the mall. Of the mice and men's example: George resolves his conflict with the ranch boss by explaining (falsely) that he speaks for Lenny because Lenny was kicked in the head by a horse when he was a child (22). Alliteration is a string of words starting with the same consonants. A common example: Susie sold seashells by the sea. Of mice and men Example: On sandy shores, rabbits sat as quietly as small gray, sculptural stones (2). Images - the use of a bright or figurative language for objects, actions or ideas. Total Common Judy, dressed in blue jeans, a blue T-shirt with the Love Rules logo and an orange Converse tennis top with incompatible red and blue laces, entered the mall. She felt as if she were the queen of the Mall. Of the mice and the male example: The evening of the hot day began a small wind to move among the leaves. The shadow rose up the hills to the top. On the sandy shores rabbits sat as quietly as small gray, sculptural stones (2). Style is the manner of expression: how a character or writer says what he/she says. A common example: Judy, when confronted by the mall police on suspicion of theft, said: You don't know me. I'm not a thief! Of the Mice and Men Example: When George confronts Lenny about inappropriately his work ticket, Lenny replies: Oh, of course, George. I remember that now. His hands quickly went into the pockets of the side coat. He said softly, George... I don't have mine. I must have lost it. He looked at the ground in despair (5). Tone is the writer's attitude to the material and/or readers. The tone can be playful, formal, intimate, angry, earnest, ironic, indignant, puzzled, gentle, serene, depressed, etc. a common example: Judy, nervous and sweating bullets, felt the world approaching her as a policeman asked her. Of the mice and the male example: Lenny avoid the bait. He felt his advantage. If you don't want me, you only jus' have to say so, and I'll go into these hills right there, right in these hills and live alone (13). Motive is a recurring theme or event. A common example: Judy tells a story (anyone who will listen) about her meeting with the mall police almost daily. From Mice and Men Example: Throughout the novel, Lenny constantly talks about raising rabbits on the ranch he and George hope to own. Ahn has rabbits. Come on, George! Tell us about what we will have in the garden and about rabbits in cages... (14). Mood - The atmosphere that permeates a literary work with the intention of ins arising certain emotions or feelings among readers. A common example: Judy was nervous when the mall police continued to question her. All of a sudden everything around her suddenly became fuzzy and dreaming. She felt helpless, alone and had an unsettling sense of swimming. Of the mice and the men's example: After meeting Curley, George and Lenny are clearly tense. Curley lashed his body around. According to Christ, he (Lenny) should talk when they talk to him. What the hell do you get 'into it'? We travel together, George said coldly. Oh, that's the way it is. George was tense, and motionless. Yes, it is. Lenny looked helplessly at George for instructions (25). The theme is morality or a message of history. A common example: Judy now realizes that false accusations are happening and she decides to forgive the mall police. Of mice and men Example: The main theme in the novel is friendship. Despite the fact that Lenny and George have their own conflicts, they remain the closest friends. And of course George hits act of friendship friendship at the end of the novel. George says to Lenny: Because I got you An I got you. We got each other, that's what gives a hoot in hell about us, Lenny exclaimed with triumph (104). The protagonist is the main character or hero of the story. A common example: Judy realized after her false arrest that not everything was bad; she remained an honest and law-abiding person. Of the mice and the male example: George and Lenny are most likely the main characters, as they both try to do their best, they can in often difficult circumstances. George says to Lenny: Because I got you An I got you. We got each other, that's what gives a hoot in hell about us, Lenny exclaimed with triumph (104). The antagonist is usually a character who confronts the main character. A general example: the mall police officer who interrogated Judy was unfair and undesirable. Of the mice and the male example: Curley is clearly an antagonist as he immediately takes a dislike for Lenny and George. He (Curley) looked coldly at George and then at Lenny. His hands are gradually bent at the elbows, and his hands are closed in his fists (25). Magical realism is a narrative technique that blurs the distinction between fantasy and reality. A general example: After her release, Judy saw her climb into the air and land on a cloud of relief. From mice and men Example: Aunt Clara left, and from Lenny's head came a giant rabbit. He sat on his sores in front of him, and he wagled his ears and wrinkled his nose at him. And he spoke in Lenny's voice too (101-102). After-up/takeaways/Follow-up Teachers are encouraged to allow students to act out current scenes from mice and men to show their understanding of literary terms. Takeaway This activity helps students learn and understand literary terms in interactive, fun. This can complement or replace the traditional literature textbook approach. A subsequent final test of all literary terms, with examples of students, is recommended. Assessment teachers should regularly check students' notebooks to make sure they are including examples of current literary terms. They will also be regularly tested in literary terms. Common Basic State Standards Met with Literature Reading Standards 6-12 Key Ideas and Details: 1, 2 Craft and Structure: 4, 5, 6 Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: 9 Reading Range and Text Complexity Level: 10 Reading Standards for Information Text 6-12 Key Ideas and Details: 1, 3 Craft and Structure: 4, 5, 6 Standards of Writing 6-12 Text Types and Goals: 3 Production and Distribution Letters: 4, 5 Studies for Creation and Present Knowledge: 7 Range Letters: 10 Talking and Listening Standards 6-12 Understanding and Collaboration: 6 1 Language Standards 6-12 Conventions of Standard English: 1, 2 Language Knowledge: 3 Acquisition and use of vocabulary: 4, 5, 6 Standards of Reading for History/Social Studies 6-12 Key Ideas and Details : 1, 2 and structure: 4, 5 Letter standards for In History/Social Research, Science and Technical Subjects 6-12 Production and Distribution Letters: 4, 5 Studies to Create and Present Knowledge: 7 7

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