

**Summer Reading**  
**College Prep English II**  
**Theme: The American Dream**

**Required Text:**

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (novel)

**Choice Text (choose ONE from the list below):**

*The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead (novel)

*Fences* by August Wilson (play)

*Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller (play)

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston (novel)

**Assignment:** You are required to read *Of Mice and Men* and one choice text from the list above. For both texts, thoroughly annotate as you read. Expectations for annotations are described below; teachers will check annotations for a grade upon the start of school. In addition, there will be a test on *Of Mice and Men* and a timed essay on your choice book when school returns.

## Annotation Expectations

### Before you read:

1. First things first. Do not be afraid to mark up the text. Get those pens, pencils, and highlighters on the page.

### While you read:

\*Note: You should use a combination of all of the following annotating techniques. You should NOT rely on one strategy (ex. only highlighting the text).

1. **Circle** any words you don't know, look them up (dictionary apps are great for this), and jot in a short definition in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper.
2. **Underline/highlight anything** that you believe could be of importance. Such as revealing insight into characters, descriptions of setting, major plot points, etc.
3. Annotate (make notes) next to your underlining—why is that part important? What are your thoughts? What is the “take away”? There should never be underlining or highlighting without some sort of note by it. Use your margins!
4. “Argue” with the text—if you take issue or disagree with something that's taking place, write a critical comment in the margin that explains why.
5. Write in any **questions** you have next to things you don't understand. Place a ? or Q next to these places so that they are easy to spot.
6. Write in any **opinions** you have about characters, plot points, etc. as you read.

### After you read:

1. Go back to the first page of each chapter, and give the chapter a title.
2. Go to the last page of each chapter, and write in one question that you are left with upon finishing your reading of that chapter.

**OPTIONAL resource to use to organize your understanding of the texts:**

**Characters**

List the characters below. Include names, physical characteristics, job descriptions, relationships with other characters, who's the protagonist, who's the antagonist.

**Setting**

Describe the scene(s) of the action in the novel.

**Plot**

Write a short summary of the important events in the story. Describe the conflict in the story and how it is resolved.

**Theme**

What is the deeper meaning of the work?

**Symbols**

List any symbols you noticed in the novel.

**Key words/quotations**

List any words or quotations that are important to the reader's understanding of the novel.