

Of Mice and Men – Knowledge Organiser

Spellings / Vocabulary			Punctuation		Grammar	
Word	Definition	Example	Type	Example	Type	Example
Isolation	The process or fact of isolating or being isolated. (Being alone / apart from others.	Curley's wife felt a sense of isolation as her husband did not like her talking to others on the ranch.	Listing comma	He went to the shops to buy milk, bread, eggs and flour.	Verb	She is here. He jumped.
Racism	Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone based on the belief that one's own race is superior.	Crooks was subjected to racism. He believed that people didn't listen to him as he was "just a nigger talkin'."	Parenthetic comma	Steinbeck's novel, Of Mice and Men, shows the harsh reality of life in the 1930s.	Modal verbs	Give a degree of certainty about an action e.g. might, may, could, would, should, will
Segregation	The action or state of setting someone or something apart from others.	Crooks feels separated from the other workers. "I ain't wanted in the bunkhouse, and you ain't wanted in my room."	Subordinating comma	As the broccoli was covered in cheese, Emily refused to eat it.	Auxiliary verbs	Help to determine tense. e.g. I am going. I had gone. I was going.
Migrant	A person who moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions.	George and Lennie are migrant workers. They move from place to place to find work. Usually, migrants would travel alone.	Parenthesis	George (accompanied by Lennie) moved quickly through the bushes. George - accompanied by Lennie - moved quickly through the bushes.	Informal tone	Hiya , how have you been lately ?
Cyclical	Occurring in cycles; recurrent.	The structure of OMAM is cyclical. There is a sense of things happening in an order then repeated giving the impression that things are inevitable.	Ellipsis	So...what happened?	Formal tone	You are cordially invited to attend the wedding.
Hierarchy	A system in which members of an organisation or society are ranked according to relative status or authority.	Curley's father is at the top of the hierarchy as he is the boss of the ranch.	Terminology	Definition	Example	
Loneliness	Sadness because one has no friends or company.	Curley's wife feels a sense of loneliness as she is not allowed to have friends and has no female company on the ranch.	Metaphor	A figure of speech, which is not literal.	My aunt is a diamond.	
American Dream	The ideal by which equality of opportunity is available to any American, allowing the highest aspirations and goals to be achieved.	George and Lennie's dream of owning a farm and living off the "fatta the lan" symbolizes this dream.	Animal Imagery	Whereby animal attributes are imposed upon non-animal objects and humans.	"He walked heavily, dragging his feet a little, like a bear drags his paws."	
			Foreshadowing	To give an indication of what is to come.	We get a hint of the final death through the killing of the mouse and puppy.	
Great Depression	A long and severe recession in an economy or market.	In October 1929, millions of dollars were wiped out in the Wall Street Crash. This led to the Great Depression, which crippled the country between 1930 and 1936.	Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.	Lennie's puppy represents the victory of the strong over the weak. Lennie kills the puppy as he fails to recognise his own strength.	
The Dustbowl	An area of land where vegetation has been lost and soil reduced to dust and eroded, especially because of drought or unsuitable farming practice.	The dustbowl was a key reason why workers had to move so regularly due to land being dry and them not being able to farm there.	Semantic field	A group of words, which relate to a common theme or motif.	Semantic field: Death Murder, suicide, weapon, poison.	