

Name: _____

Date: _____

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DIRECTIONS: You are to write a properly formatted essay on one of the topics on the next page for the novel you read. You may also negotiate a topic with your teacher. Be sure to attach this page to the front of your work before you hand it in. Your teacher will use the rubric below to mark your essay.

	<i>Exceptional</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Competent</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Incoherent</i>
<i>Characteristic</i>	6	5	4	3	2	1
<i>Spelling</i> <i>/10</i>	Virtually no errors 9	Few, if any errors 8	Several errors in spelling 7	Frequent errors in spelling 6	Many spelling errors, but commonly used words spelled correctly 5	Many spelling errors including misspelled commonly used words <5
<i>Grammar & Sentence Structure</i> <i>/20</i>	Sophisticated use of grammar and sentence structure with few, if any, errors 18	Sentence structure is varied with minor grammar errors 16	Adequate variation in sentence structure and grammar 14	Occasional errors in sentence structure and grammar which don't obscure meaning 12	Frequent errors in sentence structure and grammar which obscure meaning at times 10	Frequent, serious errors in sentence structure and grammar obscure meaning <10
<i>Organization of Essay</i> <i>/20</i>	Superior use of organization and transitions 18	Logically organized, ideas flow, good use of transitions 16	Adequate organization supported by adequate transitions 14	Has a beginning, middle and end, with poor transitions 12	Has a beginning, middle and end, but no transitions 10	No discernible beginning, middle or end <10
<i>Focus on Topic</i> <i>20</i>	Superior focus on topic in purposeful and insightful manner 18	Focused on topic 16	Focused on topic, but occasionally has ideas which are not on topic 14	Loses focus with ideas which are loosely connected or off topic 12	Frequently includes ideas which are not on topic 10	Mostly off topic <10
<i>Understanding of Topic</i> <i>/15</i>	Superior understanding of topic 13.5	Very good understanding of topic 12	Adequate understanding of topic 10.5	Limited understanding of topic 9	At least partial misunderstanding of topic 7.5	Does not understand topic at all <7.5
<i>Support for Thesis</i> <i>/15</i>	Sophisticated and elaborate examples in support 13.5	Specific examples and details in support 12	Adequately specific support 10.5	A mixture of specific and generalized support 9	What support there is consists of generalization 7.5	No supporting examples used <7.5

Of Mice and Men - Essay Topics

1. How does being different lead to tragedy in this story? What part does intolerance have to play?
2. How does Curley's wife suffer from oppression? Is it important that Steinbeck did not give her a name, but chose only to refer to her as "Curley's wife?"
3. Discuss the similarities of how Candy feels about the killing of his dog and George feels about the death of Lennie.
4. Discuss several characters in the book who have lost hope and have a sense of futility. Why is this idea so universal in the book?
5. Explain why the little farm is a vision of utopia, and why it is impossible to reach. Why do the characters know they won't get it? Consider the economic conditions of the time.
6. Explain the value of relationships in this story, and how this contrasts to the problem of loneliness. Be sure to include insight about the value of this idea in society.
7. A topic not on this list, which you get your teacher's permission to write about **before** you start writing!

Lord of the Flies - Essay Topics

1. Analyse the character of Ralph throughout the novel. How is he revealed to us? Does his character grow, change or develop throughout the course of the story?
2. Pick several examples of symbolism in *Lord of the Flies* and discuss how they are used in the story.
3. Discuss the title of the book and how appropriate you believe it is.
4. In the *Lord of the Flies* Golding shows that human beings are capable of intense evil as a result of their own natures and not because of any outside factors. Agree or disagree.
5. Show how each of the main characters on the island is symbolic of a group in our society.
6. Compare or contrast the characters of Ralph, Jack, Piggy, and Simon using physical descriptions, behaviour, how the others feel about them, and how they feel about themselves.
7. Show how the novel reinforces Golding's belief that there is no hope for humankind – that the defects of any society are the result of the defects of human nature.
8. A topic not on this list, which you get your teacher's permission to write about **before** you start writing!