



**Subject: Autumn Half Term 1, Of Mice and Men: *Friendship and Fate***

Overarching Topic:			
<p>Why is this topic being studied at this time?</p> <p>How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?</p>	<p>Have you ever wondered what's in a friendship? Genuine common ground between two people, or simply circumstance? Are your friends at school your friends because you get along with them, or simply because you have to spend a lot of time with them? John Steinbeck's classic novella <i>Of Mice and Men</i> explores the theme of friendship, as well as racism, social hierarchy, loneliness and 1930s America. Whilst the novella was written some 80 years ago, these themes are still very much prevalent today and provide for in-depth discussion and debate for students today.</p> <p>This unit sees cross-curricular links with History Spring 1 unit which explores the Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression, as the novella's themes are largely centered on what life was like in 1930s America. Furthermore, the concept that humans sometimes hurt people they love to ultimately help them is a key concept that is explored in the Year 8 PRE modules 'Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics' and 'Life Choices'.</p>		
Critical	Core	Pinnacle	
<p><b>The Big Questions</b> (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)</p>	<p>What is a novella?</p> <p>What is social hierarchy</p> <p>What is the American Dream?</p> <p>What is context?</p> <p>What are the key themes in 'Of Mice and Men'?</p> <p>How is George and Lennie's friendship unequal?</p> <p>How were minorities treated in</p>	<p>How did societal issues of the time inspire Steinbeck to write this novel?</p> <p>How does Steinbeck use individual characters to represent different social groups in 1930s American society?</p> <p>Why is a novella written in 1937 still relevant today?</p> <p>What does 'The Ranch' represent?</p> <p>Why does Curley's Wife not have a name?</p> <p>Where would you place the main characters on a</p>	<p>Is it possible that people do bad things for the greater good?</p> <p>What is friendship?</p> <p>What would be a Freudian reading of George and Lennie's friendship?</p> <p>Is the American Dream just a fantasy or is it achievable?</p> <p>What was the ultimate impact of the Great Depression on the characters of the novella and globally?</p> <p>Is it better to be independent or dependent on others?</p>

	1930s America?  What does the colour red represent in literature?	social hierarchy?  How can animals be used to foreshadow upcoming events in a novella?	
<b>The Key Skills/ Techniques</b>	<b>The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the critical, core and pinnacle knowledge.</b>		
	<b>Skill/Technique</b>	<b>How will this skill be developed?</b>	
	Reading a novella with complex themes such as racism and murder.	Developing a sound understanding of these themes in conjunction with the era of the novella before reading the novella together as a class.	
	Understanding that singular characters can be used to represent wider groups of society.	Detailed character analysis, character hierarchies, discussion and debate.	