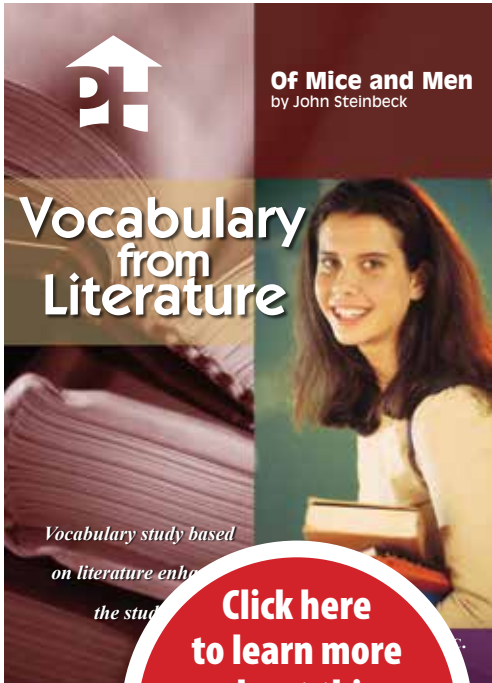




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Vocabulary from
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Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck

Written by Lisa Miller

Edited by Paul Moliken

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Vocabulary From Literature

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Of Mice and Men

Information for Instructors

The activities in this Unit are designed to help students increase their vocabulary by studying the meanings of words selected from John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men*. All definitions provided in these activities are based on the contexts in which the vocabulary words appear, which may not always convey the words' conventional usage.

It is the goal of this Unit to familiarize students with vocabulary words that they will re-encounter in life and other readings. The words are carefully selected to meet this goal.

Rather than matching *Of Mice and Men* chapter-for-chapter, we have divided the book into segments depending on the number of vocabulary words from each chapter. While all of the activities may be completed by students individually, we have had the best results when students worked on them in pairs or small groups. The following activities are provided for each segment.

While the words in this reproducible do represent those necessary for a better understanding of the text, our primary concern is that we select words not only pertinent to the literature, but also useful in other aspects of the students' lives.

All page references come from the Penguin edition of *Of Mice and Men*, copyright 1937.

Activity I

Objective: Finding and interpreting definitions

Activity II

Objective: Deciphering the meaning of vocabulary words using context clues
Replacing the vocabulary word with appropriate synonym(s) and definition(s)

Activity III

Objective: Writing definitions, synonyms, and sentences based on context clues

Activity IV

Objective: Demonstrating an understanding of a word's meaning by completing sentences
Students will be able to explain their sentence completions by referring to passages in which the word is used.

Activity V

Objective: Recognizing commonly used prefixes and roots
Understanding how prefixes and roots offer vocabulary clues

Activity VI

Objective: Using vocabulary words to complete a crossword puzzle

Test A twenty question multiple choice test with answer key is provided.

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Chapter 1

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. If answered incorrectly use a dictionary to make any corrections.

junctures (1)	heron (2)	mimicking (11)	debris (1)
mottled (1)	stake (13)	droned (6)	carp (10)
sycamores (1)	morosely (4)	pantomime (8)	resignedly (6)
recumbent (1)	scowled (4)		

- _____ spoke in a monotonous tone
- _____ blotchy or spotted in color; marbled
- _____ a freshwater fish frequently found in ponds and lakes
- _____ two things that come together; joined
- _____ copying or imitating closely
- _____ an amount of money
- _____ remains of something broken or destroyed
- _____ a bird with a long neck, bill, and legs
- _____ a facial expression used in showing anger or disapproval
- _____ in a sad or gloomy manner
- _____ communication without words through gestures and expressions
- _____ a way of resisting acceptance or submission to the inevitable
- _____ types of trees similar to the maple
- _____ lying down; resting; idle

Of Mice and Men

Activity IV
Completing Sentences
Chapter 1

Directions: The following sentences each contain a vocabulary word from the text. Complete each sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the highlighted vocabulary word. A dictionary or a thesaurus may be used to help with the meaning.

Example:

Sentence Starter Containing Vocabulary Word

Timothy loved to torment his younger sister by **mimicking** her while she had her singing lesson.

1. Mr. Jackson's **stilted** legs caused _____

2. Emily, hearing a commotion, **emerged** from _____

3. The submarine's **periscope** gave the men on board _____

4. The workers were **bucking** bales of hay from _____

5. The children were **whisked** away by their grandmother who _____

Of Mice and Men

Activity V
Roots and Prefixes
Chapter 1

Directions: The Latin *servare* means “to keep, to save.” Combine each prefix in the chart below with the *serv* root to make a new word. Then define the word. Use a dictionary if you need help.

PREFIX	+ serv	NEW WORD/DEFINITION
1. re: back	+ serv	(adj.)_____
2. con: very much	+ serv	(adj.)_____
3. pre: beforehand	+ serv	(v.)_____
4. pre: beforehand	+ serv	(n.)_____
5. ob: over	+ serv	(v.)_____
6. re: back	+ serv	(n.)_____
7. re: back	+ serv	(n.)_____
8. con: very	+ serv	(n.)_____