

# Introduction

The subject of the Of Mice and Men ESL Lesson Plan focuses on using John Steinbeck's classic novella to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) students. This lesson plan is designed to engage students with the powerful themes and rich vocabulary found in the text, promoting language development and critical thinking skills. Through this lesson, students will explore key elements of the story, enrich their vocabulary, and practice language skills in various contexts. The relatable themes of friendship, dreams, and societal challenges featured in Of Mice and Men provide an excellent platform for ESL learners to enhance their language proficiency while delving into a compelling piece of literature.

## Vocabulary Building

### Vocab

Vocab	Definition
<b>migrant workers</b>	Workers who move from place to place to find work, often in agriculture or manual labor.
<b>dreams</b>	Hopes and aspirations for the future, often encompassing personal success and happiness.
<b>ranch</b>	A large farm where animals are raised, especially in the western United States.
<b>loneliness</b>	Feeling of sadness due to lack of companionship or being isolated from others.
<b>discrimination</b>	Unfair treatment based on characteristics such as race, age, or gender.

### Contextual Usage

- Example 1: The novella portrays the struggles faced by **migrant workers** during the Great Depression.
- Example 2: Many characters in *Of Mice and Men* hold onto **dreams** of a better future despite their challenging circumstances.
- Example 3: The story is set on a **ranch** in California where the main characters work.
- Example 4: **Loneliness** is a recurring theme throughout the novella as many characters grapple with feelings of isolation.
- Example 5: **Discrimination** is highlighted as a significant issue faced by several characters within the narrative.

## ESL Warm-up Activity

To kick off the lesson on *Of Mice and Men*, start with a role-play activity where students take on the roles of characters from the novella. Assign each student a character and encourage them to engage in dialogue using appropriate language elements from the book. This will immerse students in the world of Steinbeck's narrative, setting an engaging tone for the lesson while allowing them to practice language skills through role-play. The activity can also serve as an icebreaker, stimulating their curiosity about the text and its themes.

## Main ESL Lesson Activities

### Vocabulary Activity: Word Collage

Start by providing students with a list of key vocabulary words from the novella. In small groups, ask students to create a visual word collage using images and their understanding of the words. Encourage them to discuss and explain their choices as it relates to the story, promoting group discussions and critical thinking.

# **Listening Exercise: Character Dialogues**

Play recordings of dialogues from key scenes in *Of Mice and Men*. Ask students to listen carefully and transcribe the dialogues. Then, have them work in pairs to practice reciting the dialogues, focusing on pronunciation and intonation.

## **Roleplay Activity: Exploring Relationships**

Assign each pair of students a set of characters from the novella. Have them create short skits demonstrating the relationships between these characters based on their interactions in the story. This hands-on exercise encourages creativity while deepening comprehension through character analysis.

## **Reading and Writing Task: Letter Writing**

Ask students to choose a character from *Of Mice and Men* and write a letter from that character's perspective. They can express thoughts, emotions, or experiences related to events in the book, providing an opportunity for personalized expression while practicing writing skills.

# **ESL Homework Assignment**

## **Homework Assignment: Creative Interpretation**

For homework, students are tasked with creating a visual or written representation of a significant scene or theme from *Of Mice and Men*. This could take the form of a drawing, poem, short story, or even a reflective journal entry. Encouraging creativity at home reinforces the lessons learned in class and allows for individual expression of comprehension.

# **Bonus Homework Task: Vocabulary Review**

As an additional assignment, students can review the vocabulary words from the lesson and create flashcards with the word on one side and its definition on the other. This aids in retention and offers an effective study tool for language development.

## **Conclusion**

### **Key Points Summary**

In this Of Mice and Men ESL Lesson Plan, students engaged with the themes of friendship, dreams, and societal challenges while expanding their vocabulary. They participated in various activities focusing on vocabulary building, listening, roleplay, and reading to deepen their understanding of the novella.

### **Reflection and Application**

As students reflect on this lesson, they can consider how analyzing literature enhances their language skills by exposing them to rich vocabulary in context. They can also contemplate how understanding different characters' perspectives contributes to their overall language development. Encouraging critical thinking through literature aids in advanced language acquisition and fosters a deeper appreciation for storytelling and its impact on language proficiency.

## **Why this topic is great for ESL learning**

# Language Enrichment Opportunities

Of Mice and Men provides a valuable platform for ESL learning as it exposes students to a wide range of vocabulary and language structures within the context of an engaging narrative. The themes and character interactions in the novella are relatable, making it easier for students to connect with the material while honing their language skills.

## Critical Thinking Development

Studying Of Mice and Men encourages deeper analytical thinking as students explore complex societal issues and interpersonal relationships. Tackling these themes in English fosters not only linguistic abilities but also critical analysis and cross-cultural understanding.

## Promotion of Cultural Literacy

By delving into this classic piece of literature, ESL learners broaden their understanding of American vernacular, historical contexts, and cultural nuances embedded within the text. This exposure enhances their appreciation for diverse literary backgrounds, contributing to their overall language competency.