**Close Reading and Annotation Assignment:**

***Of Mice and Men***

**Close reading** is an interaction that involves observation and interpretation between the reader and a text. It means rereading and reflecting to come to new conclusions and understandings about the ideas that a text sets out. [Timothy Shanahan](http://www.shanahanonliteracy.com/2012/06/what-is-close-reading.html) defines close reading as “an intensive analysis of a text in order to come to terms with what it says, how it says it, and what it means.”

Now that you have read the first section in *Of Mice and Men*, we will go through these pages a second time and use the annotation targets to aid in your understanding and interpretation of the novel. You are by no means limited by or required to have annotations on all of these. This is simply a guide to help you get started. The key is to show me that you are interacting with the text and completing a close, analytical reading. Your annotations should not simply be an identification of a theme, stylistic device or figurative language, but, instead, your annotation should reveal ***your*****thoughts and ideas** about the characters, setting, plot, and social commentary, etc. in this novel.

**Whole Book Annotations**

Thematic concepts:

* Companionship and loneliness
* The American Dream and hope

Characters (and their names) as archetypes / symbols

Animal imagery and comparisons

**Chapter 1**

Setting: including nature descriptions and imagery

Characterization of George and Lennie - both direct and indirect

The dynamic of Lennie and George’s relationship

(how do they interact, does the relationship change over time, are they equals, etc.)

**Chapter 2**

Characterization for Candy, the Boss, Curley, Curley’s wife and Slim

Lennie’s feelings about the ranch

**Chapter 3**

George and Lennie’s relationship

George and Lennie’s dream for the future

Light and dark motif

Violence and foreshadowing

**Chapter 4**

Characterization of Crooks

**Chapter 5**

Motivation for Lennie’s actions

Lennie’s reactions to his actions

**Chapter 6**

Setting including nature descriptions and imagery

Parallels to a previous death