



Of Mice and Men Chapter 1 Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle – Teacher's Guide

Purpose of the Strategy: By completing this activity, students should become more familiar with important words from the novel. Also, the crossword puzzle activity adds a twist to an otherwise laborious vocabulary exercise.

Context: This activity would be best completed just before reading chapter one, but before passing out the character graphic organizer. It would primarily function as a pre-reading activity to prepare students for possible stumbling blocks when they do begin the reading.

Directions: The object of this assignment is to match the word with its definition in the crossword puzzle. Dictionaries should be made available to the students. They can work on them individually or in groups.

Assessment: This assignment should be weighted fairly heavily because it will require some time on the students' part. Even though they should be familiar with some of the words already (which may vary depending on their background and experiences), some are particularly foreign to our modern speech. These will require more searching, time, and work. But, the really important assessment is if they understand the words at the end. To assess this, I recommend checking for understanding by doing oral questioning of random students to make sure they know the meanings without relying on their answer sheets (perhaps by having the students turn over their papers and then spot checking).