

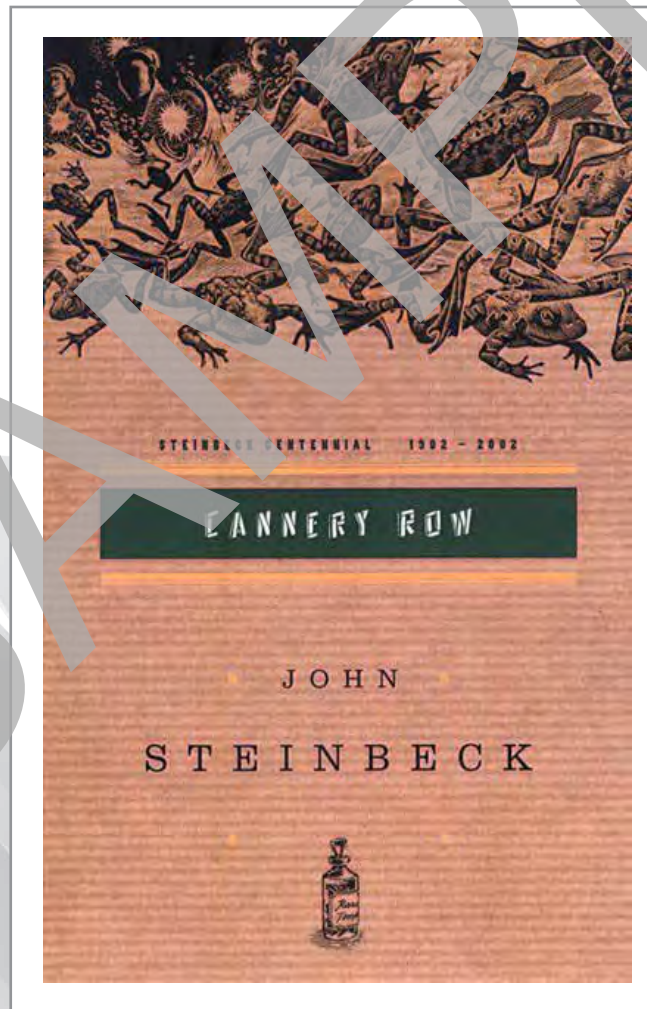


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

Cannery Row

John Steinbeck



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Cannery Row

John Steinbeck

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

Cannery Row
Study Questions
Use During Reading

Directions: Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your novel test.

* thought question, no right or wrong answer

** prediction, no right or wrong answer

Before Reading

- ** 1. Look at the cover and title. What do you think the story will be about? Where do these four men seem to be? What are they doing? How do they seem to be feeling? What do their clothes suggest about the setting—the time and place of the story? Do you know anything about Cannery Row—where it is, or what industry it supports? Have you read other novels by Steinbeck? What does he like to write about?

Introduction and Chapter I

1. When and where is the story set?
2. Why do people pour into Cannery Row from town when they hear the whistles?
3. Why has everyone in Cannery Row owed Lee Chong money?
4. How does Lee Chong acquire the warehouse?
5. Whom does Lee Chong allow to move into the warehouse? Why does he give his permission?
- * 6. Steinbeck describes the “Wops and Chinamen and Polaks” who pour in from Cannery Row to clean and can the fish. Do you find these terms offensive? What would be the “politically correct” terms to use today? What does Steinbeck’s use of these derogatory terms show about the attitudes of the place and time he is describing? Do you think these terms reflect Steinbeck’s own attitudes?

Chapter II

1. “What can it profit a man to gain the whole world and to come to his property with a gastric ulcer, a blown prostate, and bifocals?” (page 9) Do you agree? What is the narrator saying about Mack and the boys?
- * 2. On page 9, Steinbeck talks about “Our Father who art in nature, who has given the gift of survival to the coyote, the common brown rat...and Mack and the boys.” What do you think Steinbeck is saying about Mack and the boys? What is he “reciting” and how has he changed the original? Why?

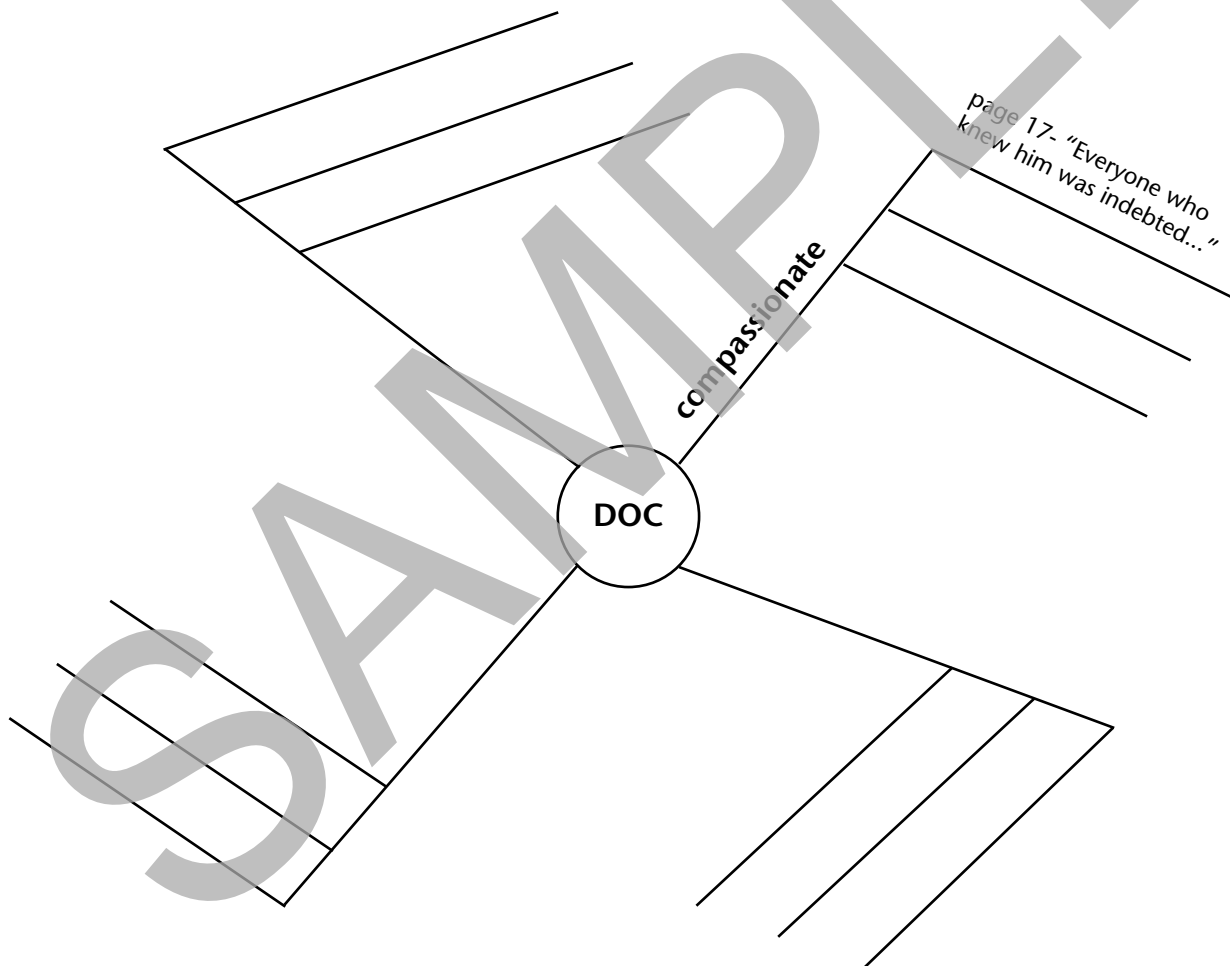
Chapter III

1. Who is Dora?
2. What was William’s job?

Name _____

Directions: You judge what a character is like in much the same way as you judge what a person in real life is like—by how he acts, by what he says, by what others say about him, and by what he seems to think and feel.

Begin an attribute web for Doc. On each spoke, write a descriptor (word or phrase that describes Doc). On each flag connected to a spoke, cite a passage that demonstrates that descriptor. Be prepared to explain in group discussion “how you know” that each descriptor applies to Doc. Add to the web as you read further in the book.



Use your web as an outline for the first draft of a character sketch.

Decision-Making

Directions: Two steps in problem solving are: (a) brainstorming possible solutions and (b) measuring each against specific criteria. When Doc realizes that Mack and the boys are planning another (birthday) party, Doc faces a problem. What should he do about it?

- a) Add your own ideas to the list of his choices in the chart below.
- b) Read the criteria (“yardstick” questions used to measure whether a particular decision “measures up”).
- c) Score each decision: 1=yes, 2=maybe, or 3=no.

Possible Choices ↓	Criteria:			
	Will this protect Doc’s belongings?	Will this hurt Mack’s feelings?	Will most people still have a good time?	Will this create new problems?
1. Do nothing.				
2. Lock up special things.				
3. Forbid the party.				
4. Make a list of rules.				
5.				
6.				