

Vocabulary From Literature

Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck

Written by Lisa Miller

Edited by Paul Moliken

Copyright © 2004 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.
1-800-932-4593. www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for
classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. *This material,
in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.*

Item No. 200649
ISBN 978-1-58049-217-1

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
- _____ birds 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

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Chapter 2

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.

skeptically (19)	gingerly (25)	bridled (31)	gravity (33)
laboring (20)	ominously (27)	apprehensive (32)	disengage (32)
calculating (25)	derogatory (27)	complacently (34)	

1. _____ with great care or caution
2. _____ anxious or fearful
3. _____ sly; scheming; manipulating
4. _____ to undo or be free of
5. _____ a doubtful, questioning manner
6. _____ a threatening manner
7. _____ seriousness; solemnity
8. _____ to belittle
9. _____ to work; toil
10. _____ a pleased, satisfied manner
11. _____ a gesture used to express anger or resentment

liniment (19)	levelly (26)	archly (31)	lamely (24)
slough (27)	profound (33)	pugnacious (25)	rouged (31)

12. _____ colored red, as with lipstick
13. _____ deep; thoughtful
14. _____ eager and ready to fight
15. _____ to be cast off or shed; to get rid of
16. _____ cunning in a playful manner
17. _____ medicated balm rubbed into the skin to ease muscle pain
18. _____ consistent; steady; even
19. _____ to be weak from pain or a disability

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Chapter 3

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 any are answered incorrectly use a dictionary to make any corrections.

derision (38)	subsided (58)	wryly (64)	quiver (45)
thong (48)	bemused (60)	bleated (63)	lynch (42)
entranced (58)	receptive (39)		

1. _____ narrow cord used for binding or lashing
2. _____ to hang without permission from the law
3. _____ filled with wonder and delight
4. _____ ridicule
5. _____ whined in a manner similar to a goat or sheep
6. _____ ready and willing to listen openly
7. _____ deeply absorbed in thought
8. _____ to shake with a slight, tremulous motion
9. _____ calmed down; slackened
10. _____ humorous with a touch of irony

subdued (49)	sarcastically (53)	pleadingly (43)	poised (63)
raptly (58)	scuttled (43)	considered (54)	rheumatism (44)

11. _____ moved with short, hasty motions
12. _____ speaking in a bitter manner that is intentional and harmful
13. _____ condition of muscles or joints characterized by tenderness, discomfort or complete disability
14. _____ quieted or controlled by physical force
15. _____ held steady and balanced, in readiness
16. _____ to argue with sincerity
17. _____ with great concentration or engrossment
18. _____ thought through carefully

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Chapter 4

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 any are answered incorrectly use a dictionary to make any corrections.

riveter (66)
sullenness (78)
fawning (68)
averted (81)

crestfallen (83)
disarming (69)
indignation (78)

aloof (67)
appraised (81)
scorn (80)

meager (67)
champing (67)
mauled (67)

1. _____ turned away from
2. _____ a tool used to fasten small metal bolts
3. _____ seeking favor by showing affection; attempting to please
4. _____ depressed; dispirited
5. _____ feeling of distaste for someone or something
6. _____ torn; worn-out
7. _____ anger or resentment
8. _____ dismal, ill-humor
9. _____ distant, cool
10. _____ judged or evaluated
11. _____ chewing noisily
12. _____ charming; trusting
13. _____ of poor quality or a small amount

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Chapters 5 and 6

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 any are answered incorrectly use a dictionary to make any corrections.

sorrowfully (85)
writhed (91)
belligerently (102)

earnestly (90)
sniveled (95)
woodenly (103)

conscious (92)
gingham (100)

1. _____ aware
2. _____ hostile; aggressive
3. _____ sincere; honest; genuine
4. _____ to whine; complain
5. _____ a cotton cloth, usually in a checkered pattern
6. _____ with great sadness
7. _____ without expression
8. _____ to twist; struggle; squirm

consoled (87)
soothingly (87)
scudded (99)
craftily (104)

contorted (91)
woe (87)
haunches (101)

cringed (92)
muffled (91)
monotonous (103)

9. _____ to ease, comfort or calm
10. _____ to help; cheer up; encourage
11. _____ in a sly, cunning manner
12. _____ to soften; deaden; smother
13. _____ the upper thigh and buttock of an animal or human
14. _____ to speak in an unchanging, dull, uniform, flat tone
15. _____ to flinch, shrink, or cower with fear
16. _____ great misery or misfortune
17. _____ skimmed along swiftly
18. _____ twisted or bent out of shape