



*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Reviewed by Ariella



Fiction, Stand Alone

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

*Of Mice and Men* is about George and Lennie, two ranch workers who are trying to pursue their dream of owning a piece of land during the Great Depression. While George is quite sharp, Lennie is physically strong but mentally disabled, and he relies on George for guidance when needed and companionship. As they find work on a ranch, their dreams are strained by their surroundings, and their bond is tested by these same surroundings. *Of Mice and Men* looks at themes of friendship and the nature of hope.

### **What drew you to this book?**

The complicated themes of friendship and dreams and how they may conflict is what really pulled me into this story. Many readers (including me) tend to gravitate towards stories that have a vivid portrayal of resilience and vulnerability, stories that capture different hardships and hopes of people that look for a connection in difficult times. The characters George and Lennie, although flawed, are relatable in some ways, which makes their journey even more compelling and emotional.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

"*Of Mice and Men*" shares similarities with "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" by Harper Lee, which explores themes of empathy and justice. They both dive deep into the challenges of such a complex society with memorable and relatable characters. Anybody who appreciates stories where moral and social topics are brought up will find these books interesting.

### **To whom would you recommend this book?**

"*Of Mice and Men*" would appeal to readers who enjoy stories about connections between humans, no matter the type of relationship and the impact that society may have on this relationship. Readers who appreciate depth when reading a book will love Steinbeck's straightforward yet powerful writing as it helps encourage reflection on universal themes of compassion and loneliness. Additionally, anyone who is interested in historical fiction, particularly anybody who is interested in learning more about the Great Depression, may find this book intriguing.

**Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

Since this was a required book in school, we had to do many assignments for it as we were reading and when we finished reading it. One of the assignments was to create an extension to the ending of the book. Even after that assignment was over, I continued to make up my own endings to change up the story to change the outcome of the story as a whole (so I believe you could say that I definitely liked it).

**Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

Of Mice and Men was a required book that we had to read in school. As someone who doesn't like to read books with a deadline, I read more than what I was supposed to in a given time, which shows how good this book was. I recommend looking at any piece of art related to this book after you finish reading. Some of the art made by people online brought pictures that I made in my head while reading to life.