

Character in a narrative

Learning outcomes

R 6. Read their texts for understanding and appreciation of character, setting, story and action: to explore how and why characters develop, and to recognise the importance of setting and plot structure.

W 8. Write about the effectiveness of key moments from their texts commenting on characters, key scenes, favourite images from a film, a poem, a chapter, a media or web-based event

W 4. Write competently in a range of text forms, for example letter, report, multi-modal text, review, blog, using appropriate vocabulary, tone and a variety of styles to achieve a chosen purpose for different audiences.

Context

Learning Intention: We are learning to read and analyse a prescribed text and to write a critical response about a main character we liked/disliked.

Background: 2nd year students studied the novel, 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck. They read the novel at home and at school. Students did short digital tasks as homework and engaged in class discussion in school focusing on themes, characters and setting. Students were encouraged to use online resources such as dictionaries to help improve the accuracy of their language and also to plan and edit their work. At the end of this module students had five short tasks to complete. For this purpose of this task students had to discuss a character they liked or disliked from the text.

Task: Having studied the text, write an answer discussing a character you liked or disliked.

Success criteria

- SC1 Shows understanding of the chosen genre or form.
- SC2 Shows knowledge of the text under review.
- SC3 Expresses ideas fluently, imaginatively, and with control of expression.
- SC4 Displays mechanical competence in writing.

Character Fiction

Weak expression but appreciation of task evident SC 2.

Shows good knowledge of text in the choice of quotations. There are some basic grammatical errors SC2/4.

Writing reveals flaws in structure and expression which would need to be worked on to improve the cogency of the argument SC 3/4.

Good personal response, but there are flaws in structure and paragraphing SC4.

The title of the novel that I have studied is *Of Mice And Men* by the great author John Steinbeck. I have picked the character George Lennie's close companion. I picked George because of the incident at the very end of the novel when he takes a gun to Lennie.

George is a quick thin and strong man with strong facial features and he is a very good friend of Lennie's they travel from ranch to ranch together trying to find work. They travel together as George was kind enough to look after Lennie when his aunt Clara died "I've got you to look after me and you got me to look after you". Lennie also travels with George as Lennie has a mental illness and he lacks thinking straight and knowing when to do something and not to. George and Lennie are the only men that travel from ranch to ranch as the ranch workers life is a very lonely one "the people that work on ranches are the loneliest in the world". George and Lennie are moving from the ranch in Weed to another ranch in Soledad as Lennie was accused of rape when all he did was touch the girls red flowy red dress.

The incident when George shot Lennie really changed my feelings for George my feelings changed from liking George to having pity and respect for him as it was a terrible scene in the book but it also showed us the friendship between the two. George followed through with this plan as he didn't want the other men to find Lennie before he did and possibly torture him for what he had done to Curly's wife.

It was clear to see that it was the last thing in the world he wanted to do but he had to proceed with it. When Lennie is sitting down on the ground George tells Lennie to look out across the water and to take off his cap on his head "take off your cap Lennie the air is fine" as George holds the gun at Lennie's head Lennie asks George to tell him how its going to be "tell me how its gonna be George". George repeats the dream to put Lennie at ease and to put himself at ease "we are gonna have an alfalfa for the rabbits and you'll get to tend them" as George lifted the gun to Lennie, Lennie was oblivious to the fact he was going to die. This part appealed to me as Lennie had the dream right to the end and George made sure of that. This shows it took everything in Georges body to shoot Lennie. George put Lennie out of his misery and I admire George as a character because of this.