



# Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck

Transition Booklet – Summer 2020



Hello and welcome to English at Alec Reed Academy!

Your new English teachers at Alec Reed understand how unusual the last few months have been for you and have been working with teachers of Year 6 to produce this transition booklet for you. This transition booklet will contain research exercises to ease you into the first module you will be exploring when you arrive to our classrooms in September.

When you arrive to Alec Reed in September, the first module you will be learning about is a literature module. This means you will be reading a book called *Of Mice and Men* by a writer called John Steinbeck. The activities in this booklet will allow you to prepare for the module so it is important to take this seriously.

During the Summer term, we would like you to complete this transition booklet which will contain five tasks, set over five days. Your transition work will be detailed in the timetable below so you can see the activities you must complete over the course of a week. The timetable outlines the amount of time you should spend on each activity and it will allow you to have some flexibility in managing your own time. For example, you may wish to work ahead and do two tasks in a day.

You will have three options for each transition task: **hot**, **medium** and **lemon & herb**. When deciding which task to do, you have to think carefully about how confident you are in the topic. Try to always push yourself! If you do, you will reap better rewards in the end! You should try to attempt at least **one hot** and **one medium** task over the week.

Your Year 6 teacher will guide you through the activities within the transition booklet if you require any help. If you are completing this booklet independently or at home, you can ask an adult or an older sibling to help you. We don't want you to see this transition booklet as an additional lesson or lesson activity. The purpose of your transition booklet is to help you prepare for when you begin English lessons at secondary school and to give you a taster of the level of activities to expect from your new English teacher.

There are many ways to complete your transition booklet. You can print out the entire booklet and complete the work on the designated pages or you can complete your work on plain/lined paper. Also, you can complete your work using Microsoft Word but do remember to save your work securely. Your new teachers will want to see the wonderful work you have been completing over the Summer term so you should bring your work with you on your first day at secondary school.

We hope you enjoy completing this transition booklet and we look forward to meeting you in September. Stay safe!

		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Loyalty Stamps			
		Day	Month	Day	Month	Day	Month	Day	Month	Day	Month				
Transition Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Steinbeck		<input type="checkbox"/>	1920-30s America		<input type="checkbox"/>	Wall Street Crash and The Great Depression		<input type="checkbox"/>	The Dust Bowl and Itinerant Workers		<input type="checkbox"/>	The Role of Women	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-40 minutes		<input type="checkbox"/>	25-40 minutes		<input type="checkbox"/>	25-40 minutes		<input type="checkbox"/>	25-40 minutes		<input type="checkbox"/>	25-40 minutes	
												My Year 7 English teacher has seen my transition work.	My Year 7 English teacher has seen I have attempted an ambitious task.		
												<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		

This Transition Booklet belongs to:

I completed this booklet:

With my Year 6 teacher

With a family member

On my own



## Year 6 Transition



# Transition Week



This week, you will be exploring the writer, John Steinbeck, 1920-30s America, the Wall Street Crash & the Great Depression, Ranch Life and the Role of Women.

## Monday

### Options

CAREFUL,  
THIS ONE IS  
HOT, HOT,  
HOT!



FANCY  
SOMETHING A  
BIT MILDER?



EASY ON THE  
TASTE BUDS,  
BUT  
STILL  
SATISFYING-  
TRY OUR  
LEMON &  
HERB!



### Transition Task

You will be exploring the writer John Steinbeck today. Click on the link below:

<https://www.shmoop.com/john-steinbeck/timeline.html>

The link will take you to a website which has a timeline of Steinbeck's life. Write down 10 key facts about Steinbeck's life. Do you think Steinbeck had a good life? Did Steinbeck have any struggles? What do you think Steinbeck's biggest accomplishment was?

You will be exploring the writer John Steinbeck today. Click on the link below:

<https://www.shmoop.com/john-steinbeck/timeline.html>

The link will take you to a website which has a timeline of Steinbeck's life. Write down 10 key facts about Steinbeck's life. What do you think was the most important moment in Steinbeck's life?

You will be exploring the writer John Steinbeck today. Click on the link below:

<https://www.shmoop.com/john-steinbeck/timeline.html>

The link will take you to a website which has a timeline of Steinbeck's life. Using your own words, create your own timeline of Steinbeck's life. You should aim to include 5-10 moments of his life.

## Tuesday

### Options

CAREFUL,  
THIS ONE IS  
HOT, HOT,  
HOT!



FANCY  
SOMETHING A  
BIT MILDER?



EASY ON THE  
TASTE BUDS,  
BUT  
STILL  
SATISFYING-  
TRY OUR  
LEMON & HERB!



### Transition Task

You will be exploring America during the 1920s-30s. This period of life in America can be referred to as 'The Roaring Twenties'.

1. Read the information on Page 3 to find out how Americans lived during this time.
2. Bullet point five good things about living in America during the Roaring Twenties.
3. Bullet point five bad things about living in America during the Roaring Twenties.

You will be exploring America during the 1920s-30s. This period of life in America can be referred to as 'The Roaring Twenties'.

1. Read the information on Page 3 to find out how Americans lived during this time.
2. Bullet point three good things about living in America during the Roaring Twenties.
3. Bullet point three bad things about living in America during the Roaring Twenties.

You will be exploring America during the 1920s-30s. This period of life in America can be referred to as 'The Roaring Twenties'.

1. Read the information on Page 3 to find out how Americans lived during this time.
2. What is the best thing about living in America during the Roaring Twenties?
3. What is the worst thing about living in America during the Roaring Twenties?
4. Would you want to live in America during this time? Why/Why not?

# The Roaring Twenties

The USA during the 1920s was a nation of contrasts - a wealthy country with a high standard of living, or a country with many people living in poverty and some enduring terrible racism.

## The 1920s overview

Although the USA did not enter World War One until April 1917, the conflict cast a shadow over American society that would take a while to pass. There was a brief economic recession at the start of the 1920s, but, as the decade moved on, the economy boomed and America began the age of consumerism - many Americans bought cars, radios, fridges etc. Major cities such as New York and Chicago grew rapidly and the building of skyscrapers like the Empire State Building, which was completed in 1931, seemed to show the self-confidence of American society.



At the same time, many Americans wanted to enjoy themselves as much as they could by perhaps listening to the new jazz music or doing the new dances such as the Charleston and the black bottom. Crowds flocked to watch film stars like Charlie Chaplin and baseball stars like Babe Ruth. The emphasis on having fun and spending money has led to the 1920s being called the Roaring Twenties.

However, for many Americans, the 1920s was a decade of poverty. Generally, groups such as African-Americans, women and farmers did not enjoy the prosperity of the Roaring Twenties. More than 40 per cent of Americans lived just below the poverty line. Life was particularly hard for African-Americans in the Deep South states where the majority of black people endured a combination of poverty and racism. Although some women were able to enjoy more independence and wear the latest fashions, the reality was that most women were poorly paid and were employed in roles such as cleaners or waitresses.

## The changing role of American women in the 1920s

The 1920s were a time of liberation for some women.

1. The changing role of women was a result of the work they did during the war.
2. The number of working women increased by 25 per cent.
3. In 1920, all women were given the right to vote.
4. 'Flappers' smoked in public, danced the new dances, and behaved freely. A 'Flappers Girl' was a term for a woman who rebelled against the idea of conventional ladylike behaviour and dressing appropriately. They were independent, intelligent and confident.
5. Women wore clothing more convenient for activity and stopped wearing long skirts and corsets.
6. Divorce was made easier and the number of divorces doubled - women were not content just to stay at home and put up with bad husbands.
7. But most women were still housewives and were not as free as their men.



## Options

## Transition Task

CAREFUL,  
THIS ONE IS  
HOT, HOT,  
HOT!



You will be exploring the Wall Street Crash & the Great Depression today.

1. Read the information on Page 4 & 5 carefully.
2. Why was there a great depression in America?
3. Why was the Depression of 1929 so sudden and so severe?
4. To what extent was the Wall Street Crash the main cause of the Depression?
5. What were the causes and consequences of the Wall Street Crash?
6. Who do you think was responsible for the Wall Street Crash?
7. How did the Crash impact the economy?
8. What was life like in the USA during the Great Depression?
9. How did the Great Depression affect the American people?
10. What were the social consequences of the Crash?

FANCY  
SOMETHING A  
BIT Milder?



You will be exploring the Wall Street Crash & the Great Depression today.

1. Read the information on Page 45 carefully.
2. Why was there a great depression in America?
3. What were the causes and consequences of the Wall Street Crash?
4. What was life like in the USA during the Great Depression?

EASY ON THE  
TASTE BUDS,  
BUT  
STILL  
SATISFYING-  
TRY OUR  
LEMON &  
HERB!



You will be exploring the Wall Street Crash & the Great Depression today.

1. Read the information on Page 5 carefully.
2. In no more than 30 words, what is the Wall Street Crash?
3. In no more than 30 words, what is the Great Depression?

## The Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression

After the stock market collapsed in the Wall Street Crash of 1929 millions of Americans suffered poverty and unemployment during the economic Depression.

### What is a stock market?

A stock market is a system for buying and selling stocks of a company. A stock is a share in the ownership of a company. The prices of these stocks and shares go up and down all the time based on how much profit a company makes.

### The Roaring Twenties

As you already know, during the 1920s many Americans bought expensive gadgets and equipment for their houses by borrowing money from the banks. At this point, many banks were giving out lots of small loans to their customers who had time to pay the money back slowly.

### Wall Street Crash

When the Wall Street stock market crashed in October 1929, the world economy was plunged into the Great Depression. By the winter of 1932, America was in the depths of the greatest economic depression in its history.





The number of unemployed people reached upwards of 13 million. Many people lived in primitive conditions close to famine. One New York family moved into a cave in Central Park. In St Louis, more than 1,000 people lived in shacks made from scrap metal and boxes.



Between 1 and 2 million people travelled the country desperately looking for work. Signs saying 'No Men Wanted' were displayed all over the country.

### Causes of the Depression

1. As early as 1926, there were signs that the boom in the economy was under threat - this was seen in the collapse of land prices in Florida.
2. Eventually, there were too many goods being made and not enough people to buy them.
3. Farmers had produced too much food in the 1920s, so prices for their produce became steadily lower.
4. There were too many small banks - these banks did not have enough funds to cope with the sudden rush to take out savings, which happened in the autumn of 1929.
5. Too much speculation on the stock market - the middle class had a lot to lose and they had spent a lot on what amounted to pieces of paper.
6. The Wall Street Crash of October 1929 was a massive psychological blow.
7. America had lent huge sums of money to European countries. When the stock market collapsed, they suddenly recalled those loans. This had a devastating impact on the European economy.
8. The collapse of European banks caused a general world financial crisis.



### Effects of the Depression

1. Unemployment - 13 million people were out of work.
2. Industrial production dropped by 45 per cent between 1929 and 1932.
3. House-building fell by 80 per cent between 1929 and 1932.
4. The entire American banking system reached the brink of collapse.
5. From 1929 to 1932, 5,000 banks went out of business.
6. Although many people went hungry, the number of recorded deaths from starvation during the Depression was 110, although many other illnesses and deaths were probably related to a lack of nutrition.



**Options**

**Transition Task**

CAREFUL,  
THIS ONE IS  
HOT, HOT,  
HOT!



You will be exploring Ranch Life today.

1. Take a look at the image of the Ranch and label each area.
2. Read the information on the next page carefully.
3. Using exactly 100 words summarise, in your own words, what the Dust Bowl was and information about the life of an itinerant worker.

FANCY  
SOMETHING A  
BIT Milder?



You will be exploring Ranch Life today.

1. Take a look at the image of the Ranch and label each area.
2. Read the information on the next page carefully.
3. Using exactly 50 words summarise, in your own words, what the Dust Bowl was and information about the life of an itinerant worker.

EASY ON THE  
TASTE BUDS,  
BUT  
STILL  
SATISFYING:  
TRY OUR  
LEMON &  
HERB!

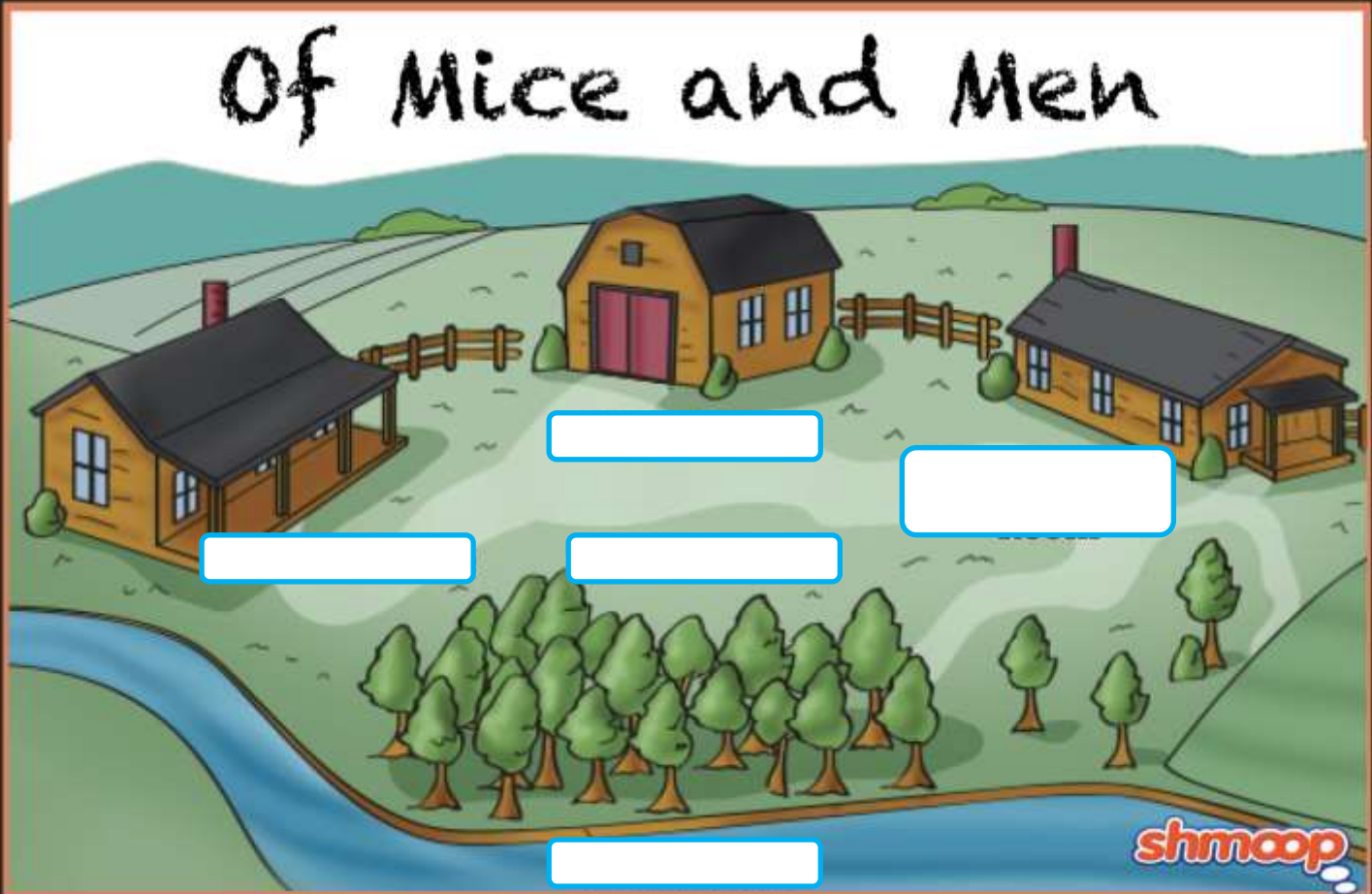


You will be exploring Ranch Life today.

1. Take a look at the image of the Ranch and label each area.
2. Read the information on the next page carefully.
3. What was the Dust Bowl?
4. What is an itinerant worker?
5. What do you think is the hardest part of being an itinerant worker?

Image of a Ranch: Label the different areas of a ranch using the terms below.

Bunkhouse	Main Barn	Stable Hand's Room	Wooded Area	Salinas River
-----------	-----------	--------------------	-------------	---------------



Of Mice and Men

The illustration shows a ranch with a central barn, a house on the left, and another house on the right. A river flows through the foreground, and a wooded area is on the right. Five empty white boxes with blue borders are placed for labeling: one in the center, one on the left house, one on the right house, one in the wooded area, and one in the river.

**shmoop**

# The Dust Bowl and Itinerant Workers



The Dust Bowl was an area in the Midwest that suffered from drought during the 1930s and the Great Depression. The soil became so dry that it turned to dust. Farmers could no longer grow crops as the land turned into a desert. Areas of Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico were all part of the Dust Bowl.

An itinerant worker is a person who performs manual labour and move around for work – this means they are homeless. Most itinerant workers were farmers. Farmers were usually less affected than the rest of the population during depressions because they were able to grow their own food; however, during the Great Depression, there was also the Dust Bowl – drought and dust storms swept across several states in mid-west America. This resulted in crops being very poor in these areas, which was coupled with falling prices for food. Small farmers were affected particularly badly by these conditions. Many small farmers were in debt because they would borrow money from banks to buy seeds and then pay back the loans when the crops came in; during the Dust Bowl, farmers could not pay back these loans and could also not afford to feed themselves and their families. In worst case scenarios, this led to banks repossessing farms, making the farmers and their families homeless.



As a result, many farmers migrated to California to look for work, as this state was perceived to have spare land and a lot of work. However, because so many people moved to California (an estimated 1.3 million), work was not so easy to find. Ranch workers often moved from one place to another looking for work, as jobs on ranches would be temporary and seasonal. Wages for men were low and jobs were scarce, so the lifestyle that they lived was very insecure. Without work, people would have no way of supporting themselves. Many itinerant workers, particularly ranch workers, had a dream of one day owning their own plot of land – this would have provided them with a sense of safety and independence.

**Options**

**Transition Task**

CAREFUL,  
THIS ONE IS  
HOT, HOT,  
HOT!



Today you will be learning about the roles of women in 1930s America.

1. Read the information below very carefully.
2. Answer the questions below:
  - a. Why were the 1930s a complicated time for women?
  - b. How did women manage the household during the Great Depression?
  - c. What did women do during financial hardships to save money for their family?
  - d. How did society feel about a woman being chosen over a man to fill a job?
  - e. How many women were employed by 1940? Was this a significant increase compared to the 1930s?
  - f. What type of education would be appropriate for women?
  - g. Why do you think women were inspired to get involved in politics because of Eleanor Roosevelt?
  - h. Do you think much has changed for women in 2020? Explain your ideas.

FANCY  
SOMETHING A  
BIT MILDER?



Today you will be learning about the roles of women in 1930s America.

1. Read the information below very carefully.
2. Answer the questions below.
  - a. What did women do during the Great Depression that was considered heroic for their families?
  - b. Why were women more favourable than men to fill a job position?
  - c. Who was a symbolic political figure for women during the 1930s?

EASY ON THE  
TASTE BUDS,  
BUT  
STILL  
SATISFYING:  
TRY OUR  
LEMON &  
HERB!



Today you will be learning about the roles of women in 1930s America.

1. Read the information below very carefully.
2. Complete the fill-in-the-blanks exercise below. If you have small hand writing you can complete it in this box. If not, you can write it out fully in the space provided at the end of this booklet.

In 1930s America, women were considered to be heroic because they saved their family lots of \_\_\_\_\_. Some of the ways in which they did this was by buying \_\_\_\_\_ bread because it was cheaper. Women would also cut up \_\_\_\_\_ clothing to create smaller clothes for their children.

Women's wages were \_\_\_\_\_ than a man's wages. Many companies preferred to hire \_\_\_\_\_ because they would have to pay them less money than a \_\_\_\_\_.

In 1930, there were \_\_\_\_\_ million women employed in America. This increased to \_\_\_\_\_ million in 1940. 75% of employed women were either nurses or \_\_\_\_\_.

Many women were inspired to participate in politics because of the First Lady. Her name was \_\_\_\_\_ and her husband's name was Franklin D. Roosevelt - he was the president of America in \_\_\_\_\_.



# The Roles of Women in 1930s America

The 1930s were a complicated time for women. Women were expected to stick to their traditional roles in the home and family. At the same time, the gains made by the feminist movement of the previous generation and the economic necessities of the Great Depression were pressing them to take a more active role outside the home.

## Homemakers

Women's roles in the household were enhanced during the Great Depression. Men had become accustomed to the role of breadwinner. When they were out of work, they felt like failures.

Women in their roles as "manager of the household," had their skills put to the test as they kept the household running on diminished incomes. Women in the 1930s came up with remarkable ways to keep their families afloat during the Great Depression. They helped their families get by on less and maximised every opportunity to save money.

For example, they bought yesterday's bread, which was cheaper and used old fabric or blankets to line old coats. Women cut up adult clothing to fit their children and came up with many similar ideas to save money.



## During the Great Depression

Women were resented if they held a job that people thought could have been filled by a man. Many women worked in textiles, as clerks, or as domestic servants. Women's wages lower than men's so many companies often hired women over men as their work was more affordable for the company – this angered many people.

## Working Women



In 1930, about 11 million women were employed and by 1940, 13 million women were employed – not a significant increase. 75% of professional women were either nurses or schoolteachers.

In 1930, 2% of American lawyers and judges were women.

Despite this, in 1930 there were almost no women engineers in the United States.

## Education

Education for women was very limited in the 1930s. Of the women who did attend college, most went to what were referred to as finishing schools, which emphasised domestic and household management skills.



Lined writing area with horizontal ruling lines.

Lined writing area with horizontal ruling lines.

Lined writing area with 42 horizontal dotted lines.



A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.