

Dear incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students,

We are eager to meet you next year in your English 9 class at Culver City High School. Before you join us in the fall, please read the novel listed below. This book will be used in the first weeks of school for a range of discussions on the topics and issues it presents. As part of these discussions, you will be expected to pose and respond to questions that relate to these topics and issues as well as extend these ideas beyond the story itself. Keep track of the connections you make between events, characters, and themes in the book and your own life and experiences. You will do this on the attached T-chart, which will be collected the first week of school.

English 9 summer reading: ***Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck**

The school library has numerous copies of the novel and local libraries have a limited number for lending. The book can also be purchased on Amazon.com and at your local bookstore.

Enjoy your summer and your reading!

Sincerely,

CCHS English 9 Teachers

### Summer Reading T-Chart Directions and Example

**Directions:**

1. While reading the novel, find six significant passages from the text—one from each chapter—that you can connect with something in real life.
2. On the left hand side of the T-Chart, directly quote the passage, including the page number correctly cited.  
**Example: "The moment where you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever being able to do it" (38).**
3. On the right hand side of the T-Chart, explain the real-life connection in approximately several well-written sentences. (Possible connections include personal experiences, events you have witnessed or read about in the news, and events that you have learned about in school.)

Passage from the book:	My connection:
<b>Example: from Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie</b>  "The moment where you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever being able to do it" (38).	This quote is significant to me because there was a time I was afraid to audition for a talent show. I was terrified to perform because I thought I would make a mistake and everyone would laugh. I doubted my talent even though many people had complimented me on my abilities before. I didn't audition for that show, but I later learned to silence my doubt and auditioned for other shows. I think the author is using flight as a metaphor for great but scary things. He is trying to tell us that half of every great accomplishment is belief in your ability to do it.

*Of Mice and Men* T-Chart

Passage(s) from <i>Of Mice and Men</i> :	My Connection:
Ch 1	
Ch 2	
Ch 3	

Passage(s) from <i>Of Mice and Men</i> :	My Connection:
Ch 4	
Ch 5	
Ch 6	

## Summer Reading Rubric

The following is an example of the type of work you are expected to do for the summer reading assignment. The example comes from J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*. Remember that each quote must be relevant and must be accompanied by a meaningful response showing a personal connection to the passage. You can use these sentence starters below to help you write your responses.

- **This reminds me of...**
- **This reflects on society because...**
- **This creates a tone/mood of \_\_\_ because...**
- **The situation is significant because...**
- **This makes me think about...**
- **\_\_\_ (author) uses \_\_\_ (device) to show \_\_\_ because...**
- **This relates to the theme of \_\_\_ because...**

Score	Criteria	Example of "T-Chart"	
4	The direct quote is copied directly from the text and cited with correct page number; a personal connection to the passage is apparent and thoroughly explained.	"The moment where you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever being able to do it" (38).	This quote is significant to me because there was a time I was afraid to audition for a talent show. I was terrified to perform because I thought I would make a mistake and everyone would laugh. I doubted my talent even though many people had complimented me on my abilities before. I didn't audition for that show, but I later learned to silence my doubt and auditioned for other shows. I think the author is using flight as a metaphor for great but scary things. He is trying to tell us that half of every great accomplishment is belief in your ability to do it.
3	The direct quote is copied directly from the text and may or may not be properly cited with correct page number; personal connection to the passage is apparent and thoroughly explained, although not as well as a four.	"The moment where you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever being able to do it" page 38	This reminds me of a time I was afraid of auditioning for a talent show. I doubted my abilities as a performer and I let that doubt keep me from trying out. It took some time, but I eventually overcame my doubts and auditioned for other shows. I have learned that my doubt just kept me from growing. That is what the author is trying to say.
2	The direct quote may or may not be copied directly from the text and may or may not be properly cited with correct page number; personal connection is unclear and lacks enough detail for reader to comprehend the logic of the connection.	"When you doubt stuff, you might not be able to do it" p.37	I think this quote is trying to tell us to do something great even when we are aren't sure about it because you never know. I had that happen to me once. Things happen.
1	The direct quote may not have been copied directly from the text and may or may not include page citation; personal connection is ambiguous and/or nonexistent.	When you doubt stuff, you might not be able to do it.	We should always try new things.
0	There is no passage or personal connection.		