

Project: American or Canadian Literature

Of Mice and Men – John Ernst Steinbeck

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Genres and authors in American or Canadian literature

- Ernest Hemingway - The Old Man and the Sea – short novel
- Edgar Allan Poe – The Raven – narrative poem
- William Styron – Sophie’s Choice – novel

Contemporary authors:

- Dan Brown – The Da Vinci Code – mystery- detective novel
- John Winslow Irving – The Cider House Rules – novel
- Jack Kerouac – On the Road - novel

My choice

- Name: Of Mice and Men
- Author: John Ernst Steinbeck, Martin Winks
- Publisher: Macmillian Readers
- Published: Oxford, 2009
- Reasons I have chosen this book: the author, reviews, classic

Author

- John Ernst Steinbeck
 - February 27, 1902, Salinas, California – December 20, 1968, New York
 - 27 books – 16 novels, 6 non-fiction books, 5 collections of short stories
 - Life – father - bookkeeper, love of literature from his mother, at first work as laboratory assistant and farm laborer to support himself through 6 years of study at Stanford University, 1925 – travel to New York – reporter, war correspondent during World War II
 - Tortilla Flat (1935), Cannery Row (1945), East of Eden (1952), The Grapes of Wrath (1939) – Pulitzer Prize (1940), Nobel Prize in Literature (1962)

Language I got from the reading - key words and phrases

- to stroke – to touch and shift on soft and mellow things
 - hladit
- For God's sake! – an exclamation, which people usually use when they are frightened, surprised, scared of something...
 - Proboha!
- I'm so used to him. – to like something, don't want to lose it
 - Jsem na něj zvyklý.
- stiffly – when someone can't move
 - ztuhle, strnule
- to slam – to hit e.g. the door
 - přibouchnout, zabouchnout, prásknout
- suspicious – distrustful
 - nedůvěřivý, podezřívavý

Quotation

Page 5 – typical conversation between main characters

'What have you just taken out of your pocket?' George asked.	„Co sis to právě vyndal z kapsy?“ ptal se George.
'There's nothing in my pocket,' replied Lennie.	„Nemám nic v kapse,“ odpověděl Lennie.
'I know,' said George. 'It's in your hand. What are you hiding?'	„Vím to,“ řekl George. „Držíš to v ruce. Co to schováváš?“
'Nothing, George. Honestly.'	„Nic, Georgi. Namouduši.“
'Give it to me.'	„Dej mi to.“
Lennie held his closed hand away from George. 'It's only a mouse, George. It's dead. I didn't kill it. I found it dead.'	Lennie svíral svou ruku daleko od George. „Je to jen myš, Georgi. Je mrtvá. Nezabil jsem ji. Našel jsem ji mrtvou.“

What I did not know before reading the book

- the plot of the book – the whole story
- names of main characters
- mice in the story
- genre

Character from the book

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| • Lennie | • Sára |
| – big and strong man | – not too high slight girl |
| – not too clever | – not too clever too,
but not stupid like
Lennie |
| – very trustful | – not at all |
| – affection in softness
things | – also but not too
much |
| – work on a ranch | – studying at school |

If I were ..., I would/would not ...

- If I were Lennie, I would try to be more careful.
- If I were Lennie, I would try to think at first what I say or what I do.
- If I were Lennie, I wouldn't do everything which George says (even if it means well).
- If I were Lennie, I wouldn't stroke everything softness (although he can't help himself in some situations).

Recommendation

- really emotional story
- intelligence isn't everything
- easy for understanding – simple formulation, detailing discription, drawn into the plot
- maturita exam

Resources

- <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Sc-St/Steinbeck-John.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Of_Mice_and_Men
- <http://www.biography.com/people/john-steinbeck-9493358>