**EL.HS.SL.10 Formulate judgments about ideas under discussion, and support those judgments with convincing evidence.**

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|  | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Nearly Meets** | **Beginning** |
| **Quality of Comments** | In-depth and insightful comments that make strong connections to the text and contemporary or historical evidence.  Provokes questions and comments from the group. | Comments are appropriate and reflect logical connections to the text and contemporary or historical evidence. | Comments lack depth and are general or limited.  Connections to the text and contemporary or historical evidence are obvious or inaccurate. | Comments when directly questioned.  Restates previous comments.  Adds nothing new to the discussion. |
| **Textual Evidence** | Strong and thorough textual evidence reveals an original, unique insight and a deep understanding of the text. | Relevant and accurate textual evidence supports an adequate understanding of the text. | Obvious and/or limited textual evidence reveals a basic understanding of the text. | A lack of textual evidence reveals that the student does not have a basic understanding of the text. |

Please prepare for our first Socratic Discussion by answering the following questions. Remember, not only do you need insightful comments, but you also need evidence from the text to support your ideas. You may use paraphrase concrete details (put facts/examples from the book into your own words).

1. In what ways do we see power and powerlessness acted out in *Of Mice and Men*? Provide specific examples and explain the significance.
2. Read Jon Steinbeck’s 1938 letter to Miss Luce (the first woman to play Curley’s wife on Broadway). How does this change your perception of Curley’s wife? Discuss. <http://velvetblory.co.uk/post/11076202092/steinbecks-letter> This is also located on the website under Of Mice and Men.
3. How well do the characters in the film reflect what is presented in the book in terms of personality, appearance, action, and dialogue? Which character was the closest to how you pictured them in the book? Was the movie an effective adaptation? Explain. (Think about theme and conflict, too)
4. There are situations in which a “mercy killing” could be justified. Agree or disagree.
5. Which character is the loneliest and why?
6. Which character do you feel the most sorry for and why?
7. Who is the most likeable character in the book and why?
8. What is the role of women in the text?
9. Steinbeck originally titled the book *Something That Happened*; however, he changed the title after reading Robert Burns' poem, “To a Mouse.” The line from the poem "To a Mouse" is often translated into English as: "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry (or astray)." What is important about the title? What does it mean? Was the title misleading?
10. What are the conflicts in [*Of Mice and Men*](http://classiclit.about.com/od/ofmiceandmensteinbeck/fr/aa_ofmice.htm)? What types of conflict (physical, moral, intellectual, or emotional)? Which –ism is the most prominent and why? (racism, sexism, ageism, lookism, ableism?)

POSSIBLE PHRASES TO USE IN DISCUSSION:

**To share your thinking: To build on the comments of others:**

In my opinion . . . I see what you’re saying. That reminds me of . . .

I found it interesting that . . . Good point. Another idea I have is . . .

I think . . . I’d like to add something to that. I think that . . .

I wonder why . . . Another reason is . . .

From reading, I think that . . . What \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ said makes me think . . .

I agree, based on . . . Have you thought about . . . ?

I disagree, based on . . . Even though . . . , I think . . .

According to the text . . . Yes, that is true, but it is also true that . . .

An example of this in the text is . . . I can see what you’re saying, but I think that . . .