

Ms. Driscoll

**Of Mice and Men – SLL II**  
**Small Group Pre-Reading Research Activity**

**Topic: Life of Steinbeck**

Research the life of Steinbeck and write a character profile giving special attention to the details of his life that might account for the realism he achieved in *Of Mice and Men*.

Author's Calendar

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/johnstei.htm>

National Steinbeck Center

<http://www.steinbeck.org/>

Encyclopedia Britannica

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9069547/John-Steinbeck>

**Topic: Mercy Killings**

Research the subject of “Mercy Killings” or Euthanasia. After explaining what it is, present arguments, both pro and con, and support each with examples.

Euthanasia.com

<http://www.euthanasia.com/index.html>

ProCon.org

<http://euthanasia.procon.org/viewresource.asp?resourceID=000126>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/euthanasia-voluntary/>

**Topic: Intellectual Disabilities**

Research the types of mental/intellectual disabilities. Present your findings in your report. Include examples of the activities and capabilities of the different levels of disabilities.

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities

<http://www.nichey.org/Disabilities/Specific/Pages/DownSyndrome.aspx>

Kid's Health

[http://kidshealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/birth\\_defect/mental\\_retardation.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/birth_defect/mental_retardation.html)

The ARC

<http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?&pid=1433&srcid=1386>

**Topic: Migrant Worker Experience**

Research migrant farm workers in the United States. Present your findings noting any changes in the system since 1937. Give examples of their lifestyles and their financial and legal responsibilities.

The Migrant Experience

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afetshtml/tsme.html>

The First Migrant Workers

<http://www.farmworkers.org/immigrat.html>

Farm Labor in the 1930s

[http://migration.ucdavis.edu/rmn/more.php?id=788\\_0\\_6\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/rmn/more.php?id=788_0_6_0)

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**YOUR TASK...**

Your task is to research your assigned topic with your group. **EVERYONE** in your group should help to research your topic. You may want to delegate someone to research important people, someone else to research important dates, and someone else important events. You must type out these **key facts** in a two-page report – a summary of your findings. You can break your findings into categories and write in full sentences within these categories. You need to **CITE EVERYTHING** that you take from the Internet. If you paraphrase something, give credit to the website by citing it using the MLA format on a separate “Works Cited” page. It is up to the group how to organize this research assignment, but the final report must include key people, important events, significant timeline/dates, and interesting facts associated with your topic. You must have a **MINIMUM** of *three* different sources.

**Your report will include:**

**Important Facts** about your topic  
How these facts **relate to the novel**  
**Significant Dates** for your topic  
**Significant Events** for your topic  
**Important people** associated with your topic  
**Your citations** in a Works Cited page

In your report, be sure to **break your topic down into separate sub-components**. For example, if your topic involves researching separate disabilities, break this topic down into two or three disabilities, each with a separate title. For the migrant experience topic, you may break your report down into significant parts of the migrant lifestyle like finances, family life, etc... This process will make it easy to delegate jobs for the group and it will also present the material well for readers.

**Presentation:**

At the end of the project, you will combine forces with the other groups in the class doing your same topic and come up with the major points to teach to the class. You will lecture and write on the board and students will take notes.