

# **Of Mice and Men**

**by John Steinbeck**

## **Definitions**



# Of Mice and Men

## Definitions



1.	<b>aloof</b>	uh LOOF	apart, indifferent
	Synonyms >>	detached, incurious, unconcerned	Antonym >> integrated; friendly
	The woman remained aloof during the party, separating herself from everyone else.		
	Derivatives >>	aloofness	
2.	<b>appreciate</b>	uh PREE she ate	to increase in value
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to decrease in value
	My home has appreciated in value by \$10,000.		
	Derivatives >>	appreciation, appreciator, appreciated, appreciating, appreciative, appreciatively, appreciativeness, appreciatory	
3.	<b>apprehend</b>	a pre HEND	to seize, arrest, take into custody; to understand; become aware of
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> turn loose
	Fortunately the police apprehended the man who stole my television.		
	Derivatives >>	apprehender, apprehensible, apprehensibility, apprehension	
4.	<b>belligerent</b>	buh LIJ er unt	waging war; inclined to or exhibiting assertiveness
	Synonyms >>	bellicose, pugnacious, combative, contentious, quarrelsome	Antonym >> peaceful
	A belligerent nation always seems to be at war.		
	Derivatives >>	belligerence, belligerency, belligerently	
5.	<b>bemuse</b>	buh MUZE	to confuse or to bewilder
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to enlighten
	He did not intend to bemuse the class with his ambiguous remarks.		
	Derivatives >>	bemused	
6.	<b>brittle</b>	BREH tul	fragile, frail, easily damaged
	Synonyms >>	fragile, frangible, friable	Antonym >> flexible
	The old man's brittle bones broke easily.		
	Derivatives >>		
7.	<b>complacency</b>	kum PLAY sun see	the state of being self-satisfied
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> dissatisfaction
	Considering that he is failing, it is curious to see his sense of complacency.		
	Derivatives >>	complacent, complacently, complacence, complaisant, complaisance, complaisantly	
8.	<b>derision</b>	deh REH zhun	scoffing at, mockery, ridicule
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> applause
	The boy received much derision for his plaid gym shorts.		
	Derivatives >>	derisive, derisiveness, derisively, derisory	
9.	<b>imperious</b>	im PEER ee us	extremely overbearing
	Synonyms >>	domineering, imperative, masterful, preemptory	Antonym >> meek
	The imperious behavior of the dictator led to his overthrow.		
	Derivatives >>	imperiously, imperiousness	
10.	<b>indignation</b>	in dig NAY shun	anger as a result of something unjust
	Synonyms >>	fury, ire, rage, wrath	Antonym >> serenity
	I have much indignation about the light sentence given to the drunk driver who ran over my child .		
	Derivatives >>	indignant, indignantly, indignance, indignify, indignities	
11.	<b>juncture</b>	JUNGK chur	a point of joining
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> separation
	His new book emphasizes the importance of the juncture of poetry and music into a new art form.		
	Derivatives >>	junctural, junctional	

12.	<b>mollify</b>	MOL eh fie	to soothe or to appease, to assuage
	Synonyms >>	conciliate, pacify, placate, propitiate	Antonym >> to aggravate
	The woman promised to buy candy in order to mollify her screaming child.		
	Derivatives >>	mollification, mollifyingly, mollifier, mollifiable	
13.	<b>monotony</b>	moh NOT uh nee	sameness
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> diversity
	There is so much monotony in my life that I need a change		
	Derivatives >>	monotonousness, monotonously, monotonous, monotonousness, monotony, monotone	
14.	<b>morose</b>	muh ROSE	being sullen or gloomy
	Synonyms >>	crabbed, glum, saturnine, sulky, surly	Antonym >> cheerful
	He was very morose after his wife left him.		
	Derivatives >>	morosely, moroseness, morosity	
15.	<b>mottled</b>	MOT uld	marked with spots of different color
	Synonyms >>	spotted, blotched	Antonym >> evenly colored
	The floor was covered with mottled linoleum.		
	Derivatives >>	mottle, mottles, mottlings	
16.	<b>ominous</b>	OM uh nus	threatening
	Synonyms >>	fateful, portentous	Antonym >> harmless; non-threatening
	The ominous clouds were harbingers of the tornado.		
	Derivatives >>	ominously, ominousness	
17.	<b>plaintive</b>	PLANE tiv	mournful and expressing sorrow
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> joyful
	The dog moaned in a plaintive manner when her puppies were taken.		
	Derivatives >>	plaintively, plaintiveness	
18.	<b>pugnacious</b>	pug NAY shus	looking for a fight, combative, belligerent
	Synonyms >>	bellicose, contentious, quarrelsome	Antonym >> peaceful
	There are many pugnacious punks at the high school that bully other students.		
	Derivatives >>	pugnaciously, pugnaciousness, pugnacity	
19.	<b>relish</b>	REL ish	to take great pleasure or delight in
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to detest
	I relish the thought of graduating from high school and getting out on my own.		
	Derivatives >>	relishable, relished, relishing	
20.	<b>reprehensible</b>	rep reh HEN suh bul	deserving blame or reprimand
	Synonyms >>	blameworthy, censurable, condemnable, reprobatory	Antonym >> praiseworthy
	Some think that kissing on the first date is reprehensible conduct.		
	Derivatives >>	reprehend, reprehensibility, reprehensibly, reprehension, reprehensive, reprehensory	
21.	<b>revere</b>	reh VERE	to honor, to regard with respect
	Synonyms >>	adore, venerate, worship	Antonym >> to despise
	Nearly all Catholics revere the Pope.		
	Derivatives >>	reverence, reverent, reverentness, reverential, reverentiality, reverentially	
22.	<b>scuttle</b>	SKUT ul	to sink (usually a ship)
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to preserve
	In war a captain of a ship might scuttle his vessel rather than have it captured and used by the enemy.		
	Derivatives >>	scuttled, scuttling	
23.	<b>slough</b>	SLUF	to cast off
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to grasp; to hold tenaciously
	He sloughs off criticism like water off a duck's back.		
	Derivatives >>	sloughs, sloughy	
24.	<b>stilted</b>	STIL ted	artificially formal, stiff, pompous
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> genuine
	The demeanor of English royalty seems stilted to many Americans.		
	Derivatives >>	stiltedly, stiltedness	
25.	<b>wispy</b>	WIS pee	small in amount, fragile, or slight
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> substantial
	A baby hummingbird is a wispy little creature.		
	Derivatives >>	wispily, wispiness, wispish, wisps	

26.

<b>wooden</b>	WOOD un	stiff, clumsy
<b>Synonyms &gt;&gt;</b>		<b>Antonym &gt;&gt;</b> graceful
The dancer's wooden movements quickly eliminated her from the troupe.		
<b>Derivatives &gt;&gt;</b>		

# **Of Mice and Men**

**by John Steinbeck**



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These words which appear in **Of Mice and Men** have been identified as words or derivatives of words that have appeared on past SAT tests. They are listed here in alphabetical order.

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- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. aloof         | 14. morosely      |
| 2. appreciation  | 15. mottled       |
| 3. apprehension  | 16. ominously     |
| 4. belligerently | 17. plaintively   |
| 5. bemused       | 18. pugnacious    |
| 6. brittle       | 19. relish        |
| 7. complacently  | 20. reprehensible |
| 8. derision      | 21. reverently    |
| 9. imperiously   | 22. scuttled      |
| 10. indignation  | 23. slough        |
| 11. junctures    | 24. stilted       |
| 12. mollified    | 25. wisps         |
| 13. monotonous   | 26. woodenly      |

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- |                  |                   |
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| 1. junctures     | 14. derision      |
| 2. mottled       | 15. scuttled      |
| 3. stilted       | 16. reprehensible |
| 4. morosely      | 17. bemused       |
| 5. imperiously   | 18. reverently    |
| 6. relish        | 19. appreciation  |
| 7. mollified     | 20. aloof         |
| 8. pugnacious    | 21. apprehension  |
| 9. ominously     | 22. indignation   |
| 10. slough       | 23. wisps         |
| 11. plaintively  | 24. belligerently |
| 12. brittle      | 25. monotonous    |
| 13. complacently | 26. woodenly      |

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## Vocabulary Test

**Directions:** Match the word in the left column with the correct definition in the right column.

### Exercise A

- |       |     |             |    |   |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|---|
| _____ | 1.  | aloof       | a. | scoffing at; mockery; ridicule                      |
| _____ | 2.  | appreciate  | b. | to confuse or bewilder                              |
| _____ | 3.  | apprehend   | c. | a point of joining                                  |
| _____ | 4.  | belligerent | d. | to increase in value                                |
| _____ | 5.  | bemuse      | e. | fragile; frail; easily damaged                      |
| _____ | 6.  | brittle     | f. | to soothe or appease; assuage                       |
| _____ | 7.  | complacency | g. | apart; indifferent                                  |
| _____ | 8.  | derision    | h. | extremely overbearing                               |
| _____ | 9.  | imperious   | i. | state of being self-satisfied                       |
| _____ | 10. | indignation | j. | to seize, arrest, or take into custody; understand  |
| _____ | 11. | junction    | k. | sameness  |
| _____ | 12. | mollify     | l. | waging war; inclined to or exhibiting assertiveness |
| _____ | 13. | monotony    | m. | anger as a result of something unjust               |

### Exercise B

- |       |     |               |    |   |
|-------|-----|---------------|----|---|
| _____ | 14. | morose        | k. | to honor; to regard with respect            |
| _____ | 15. | mottled       | l. | threatening                                 |
| _____ | 16. | ominous       | m. | to sink ... usually a ship                  |
| _____ | 17. | plaintive     | n. | mournful and expressing sorrow              |
| _____ | 18. | pugnacious    | o. | being sullen or gloomy                      |
| _____ | 19. | relish        | p. | to cast off                                 |
| _____ | 20. | reprehensible | q. | marked with spots of different color        |
| _____ | 21. | revere        | r. | artificially formal; pompous                |
| _____ | 22. | scuttle       | s. | deserving blame or reprimand                |
| _____ | 23. | slough        | t. | small in amount; fragile; slight            |
| _____ | 24. | stilted       | u. | looking for a fight; combative; belligerent |
| _____ | 25. | wispy         | v. | stiff and clumsy                            |
| _____ | 26. | wooden        | w. | to take great pleasure or delight in        |

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## EXERCISE A

1. G
2. D
3. J
4. L
5. B
6. E
7. I
8. A
9. H
10. M
11. C
12. F
13. K

## EXERCISE B

14. O
15. Q
16. L
17. N
18. U
19. W
20. S
21. K
22. M
23. P
24. R
25. T
26. V