

Mouse or man?

***Of Mice and Men*:**

**Before/After Reading Activity**

In the “Before Reading” column, write “yes” if you agree with the statement, “no” if you disagree with the statement, and “?” if you do not have a strong opinion about the statement.

**Yes = I agree No = I disagree ? = I do not know**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Before Reading** | **Statement** | **After Reading** |
|  | 1. Having friends fulfills our basic human needs.
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|  | 1. Mentally impaired people are worthless, and cannot function like “regular” people.
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|  | 1. People who are strong know their strength, and how much they can hurt other people if they want to.
 |  |
|  | 1. It is unnatural for people to have an attachment to, or feelings for, an animal.
 |  |
|  | 1. The purpose of life is to strive for, and eventually reach, our goals and dreams.
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|  | 1. Killing another human being is intolerable, and should be punished.
 |  |
|  | 1. Running away from a crime is never acceptable.
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After completing the “Before Reading” column, get into small groups, then tally the number of “yes”, “no”, and “?” responses for each question.

Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement #** | **Yes** | **No** | **I Don’t Know** |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |

Once you have collected your data, discuss those issues about with your group was divided. Make your case for your opinions, and pay attention to your classmates’ arguments. Once you have discussed all of the issues, answer the questions on the back of this sheet.

**\*These charts and responses will be collected to use again after reading *Of Mice and Men*.**

***Of Mice and Men:***

**Before/After Individual Reflection Activity**

Before Reading: Use the information and discussion on the back of this sheet to answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper. **Be sure to use complete sentences. ☺**

1. Which statement triggered the most thought-provoking or interesting discussion?
2. Summarize the discussion/debate.
3. For any of the statements that you discussed, what were some of the strongest or most memorable points made by your group members?
4. How did you feel when a group member disagreed with the way you feel about an issue?
5. Was any argument strong enough to make you change your mind or want to change any of your initial responses? Why or why not? What made the argument effective?

After Reading: Revisit your Before/After Reading Activity and your answers to the discussion questions. Now that you have read *Of Mice and Men*, complete the “After Reading” column and answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper, comparing your responses. **Answer each question using complete sentences. ☺**

1. How many of your responses have changed since reading *Of Mice and Men*?
2. Which statements do you see differently after reading *Of Mice and Men*?
3. Describe an important part of *Of Mice and Men* that affected you, or made you think differently after reading.
4. In small groups, talk to some of your classmates about their responses. How are their responses different after reading *Of Mice and Men*?
5. Overall, are the feelings of your group members the same or different from yours? Do any of their responses surprise you? Which ones? How?
6. Why do you think there might be so many different opinions and points of view? What do you feel has contributed to the way you and your classmates responded to each statement?