Of Mice and Men

Essay Test

Answer the following essay questions with solid (100 word) paragraphs. Be sure to use specific examples from the book, topic sentences, and details to back up your answers! You will need a total of six paragraphs when you turn in your final test. There are different ways that you can do this. You can write one paragraph on each question. You can write six paragraphs all about one question. Or anything in between. Just as long as you have six paragraphs total! You need to type your answers and then print or email them to me when you are done. Be sure to put a header on your paper so I know who to give credit to. This is an open book test so you may use your book or notes, but not your neighbor!

1. Let’s say that Lennie had been captured and arrested instead of being killed by George. If he went to trial, do you think that he would have been found guilty for his crime? And I don’t mean did he do it or not, because we all know that he did. I mean, should he be held responsible for his actions? Take into consideration: the events in Weed, his mental state, his history of killing animals, the actions of Curley’s wife leading up to her death. Do you think that he is responsible for her death? Explain why or why not and give reasons to support your answer.
2. Discuss the relationship between George and Lennie. Do you think that George and Lennie were friends? Or was George just Lennie’s caretaker? Explain your reasoning.
3. What do you think happened after the book ended? Did George ever save enough money to buy the farm? What about Candy? Curley? Essentially, summarize a sequel to the book. Why do you think that things ended up the way you wrote them?
4. Why does George shoot Lennie in the end? And I don’t mean “because he killed Curley’s wife”. What events led up to George feeling that that was the right thing to do? Why? Tell me about the foreshadowing and past that contributed to his decision. What would have happened otherwise?
5. Look at the various examples of discrimination in Of Mice and Men. How does discrimination affect different characters? How do characters respond to discrimination, and how does it affect their lives, and the outcome of the story? Crooks, Lennie, Curley’s Wife, and Candy are the most discriminated against it would seem. How and why?
6. Compare and contrast the book to the movie/Family Guy episode. How are they the same? How are they different? Which was the best version and why? Did you like the story or not? Be sure to back up your answer with specific examples from each!