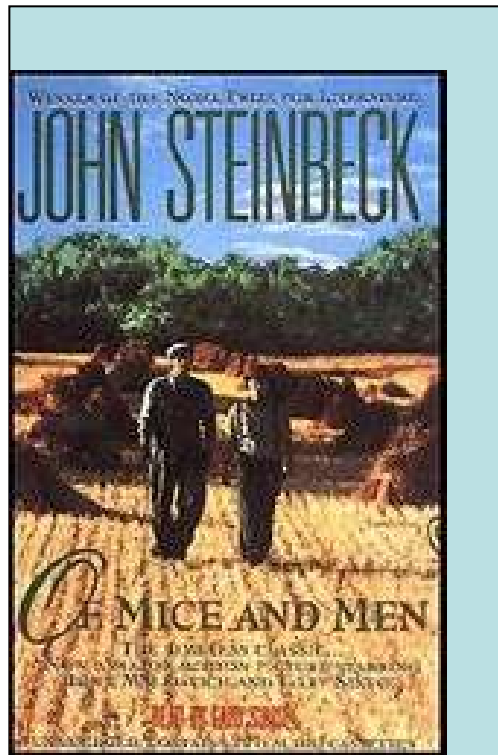
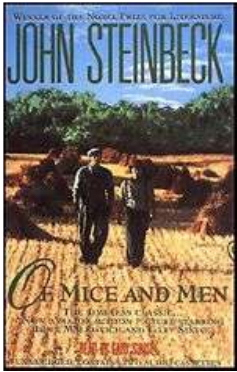


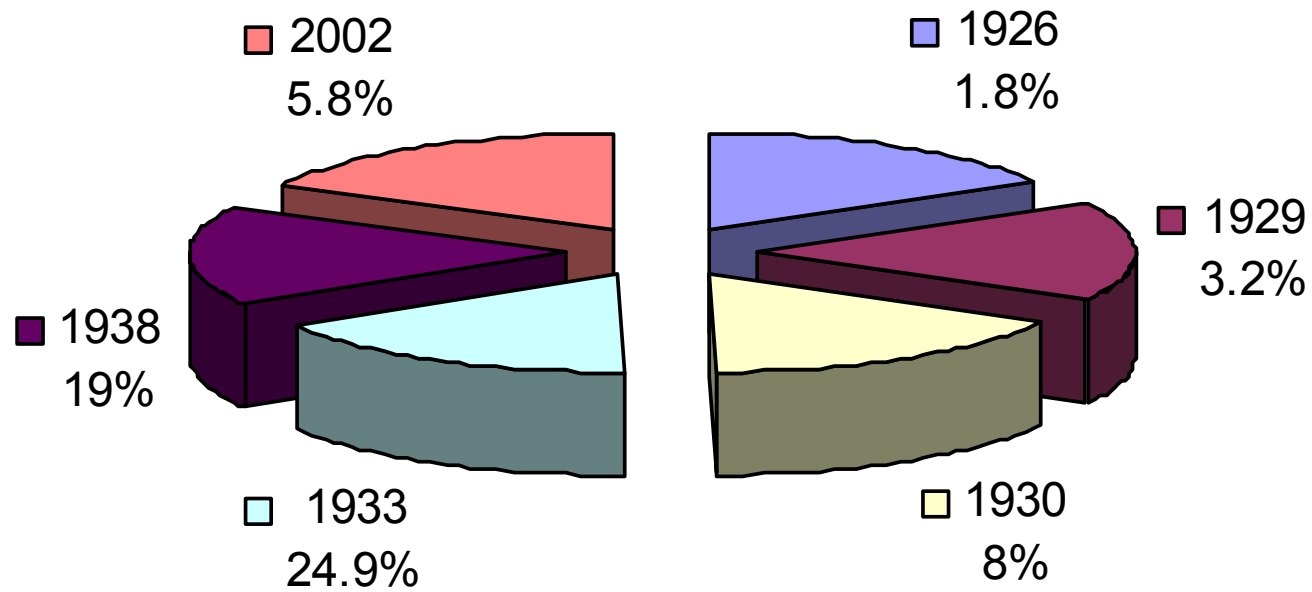
Of Mice and Men

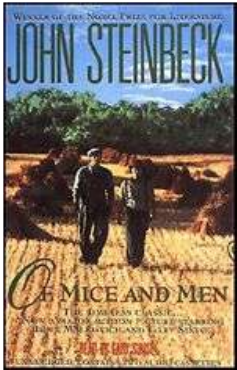
By John Steinbeck





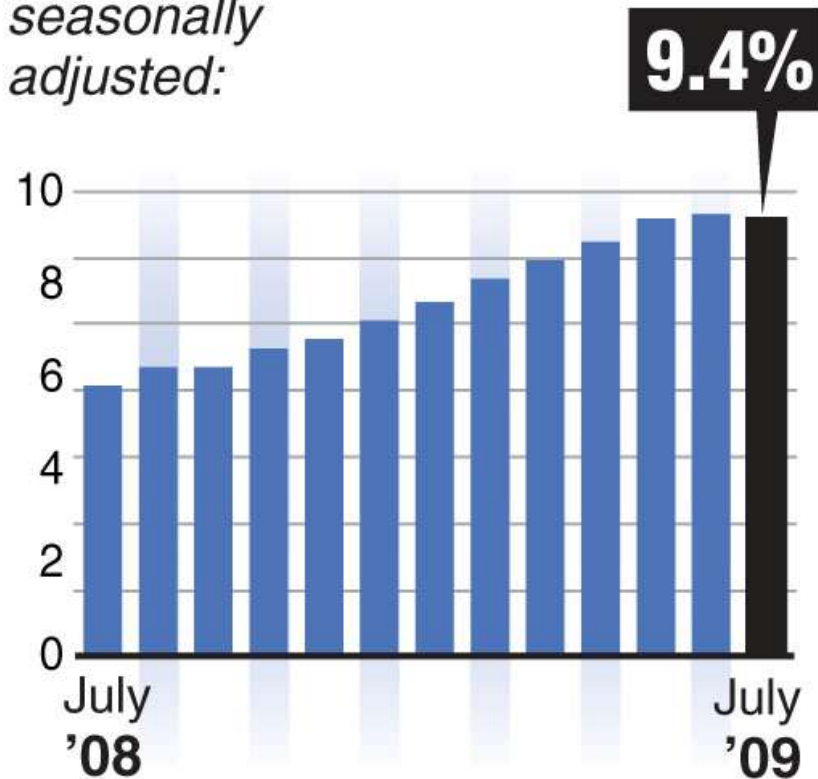
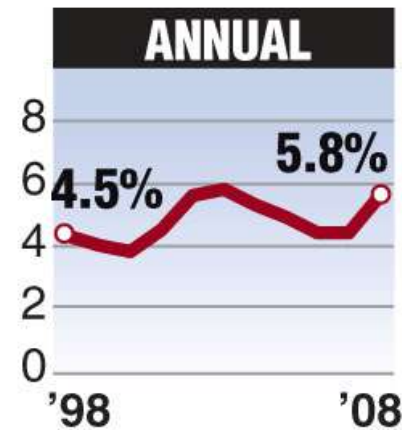
Unemployment Rates





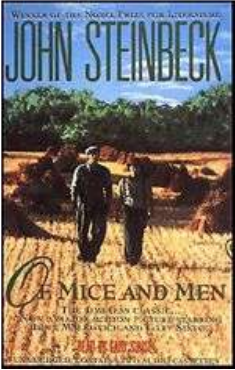
Jobless rate

Percent of civilian labor force that is unemployed, by month, seasonally adjusted:



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Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



John Steinbeck

- Born in Salinas, CA
- Born in 1902
- Attended Stanford University
- Took literature and writing
- Became laborer and propagandist
- Wrote novels, and play-novelettes
- Married three times
- Won Nobel Prize in 1962
- Died in 1968

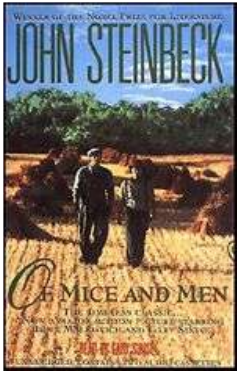


• Wrote best-selling novels

• Wrote stories for movies

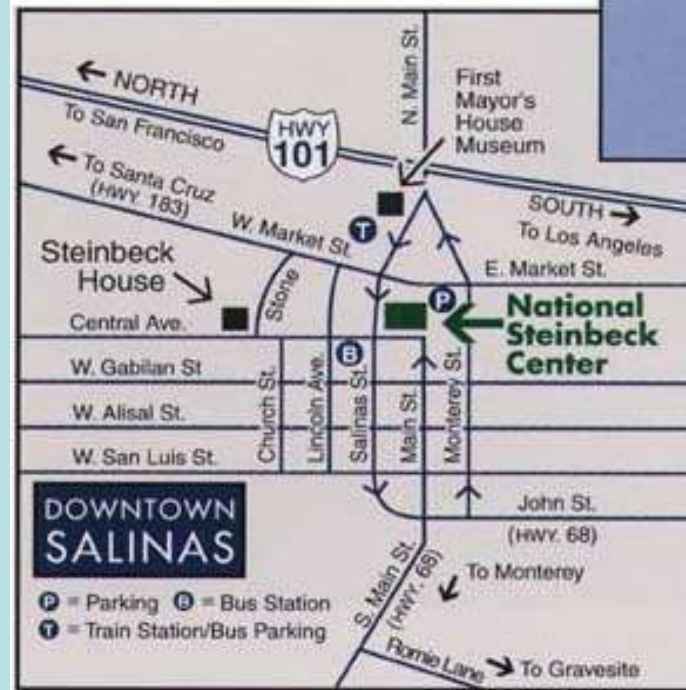
• Wrote government propaganda during WWII

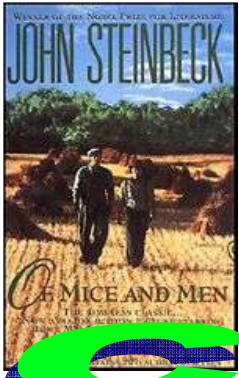
• Famous for *Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Pearl*, *The Red Pony*, *Cannery Row*



Salinas, California

- Located in Monterey Co.
- 100 miles south of San Francisco
- 60 miles south of Silicon Valley
- 17 miles east of Monterey/Carmel
- 10 miles east of the Pacific Ocean





Character

George:

- A migrant worker who travels from farm to farm for work during the Depression.
- Cares for Lennie his childhood friend who is mentally disabled

Lennie:

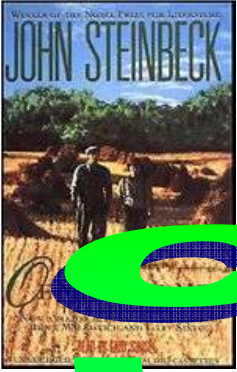
- A large mentally disabled man.
- Obsesses over touching soft things such as hair and fur
- Dreams of having a farm with George and raising rabbits

Candy:

- An old, crippled man who has lost his hand
- Swamper at the ranch

Curley:

- Son of ranch owner
- Formidable pugilist (boxer)



Character

Curley's Wife:

- Considered a tramp by most of the ranch men
- Doesn't have a name

Crooks:

- Stable buck of the ranch
- Only African American man

Carlson:

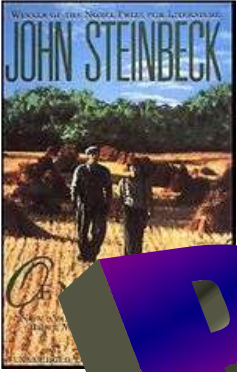
- Large man who complains about Candy's old dog
- Offers to put the dog down

Slim:

- Ranch foreman
- Wise man

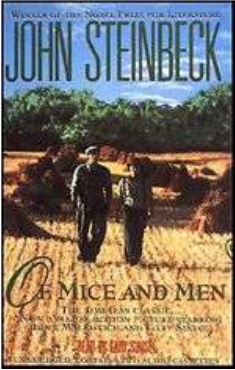
Boss:

- Suspects George and Lennie when they arrive late
- Fair man



Plot

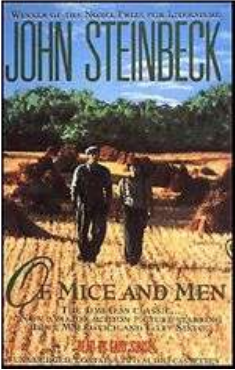
George and Lennie go to a ranch near Salinas, California to work. George is Lennie's keeper, and Lennie imitates everything that George does. Lennie previously had been kicked out of a town for grabbing a girl's dress. He simply liked to touch soft items. George promises Lennie that some day they will have their own farm and raise rabbits as well as other animals.



Analysis

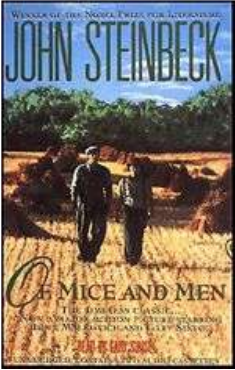
Microcosm: The ranch is a microcosm of the world. The ranch and characters represent the world and people in general.

- **Lennie, Curley's wife, Candy, and Crooks represent the lonely imperfect people in the world.**
- **The boss represents the bosses and higher position people in the world.**
- **Curley represents the spoiled pugilist type of people who think they can control by physical strength.**
- **George and Slim represent the caretakers of the world. He is a hard worker who makes sure work gets done.**



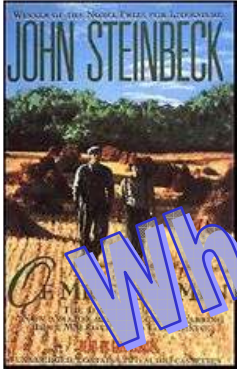
Themes

- The tragic hero
 - **TRAGIC HEROES ARE:**
 - BORN INTO NOBILITY:
 - RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN FATE
 - ENDOWED WITH A TRAGIC FLAW
 - DOOMED TO MAKE A SERIOUS ERROR IN JUDGEMENT
 - **EVENTUALLY, TRAGIC HEROES**
 - FALL FROM GREAT HEIGHTS OR HIGH ESTEEM
 - REALIZE THEY HAVE MADE AN IRREVERSIBLE MISTAKE
 - FACES AND ACCEPTS DEATH WITH HONOR
 - MEET A TRAGIC DEATH
 - **FOR ALL TRAGIC HEROES**
 - THE AUDIENCE IS AFFECTED BY PITY and/or FEAR



Other topics

- The Great Depression
- Racism & sexism
- Migrant workers



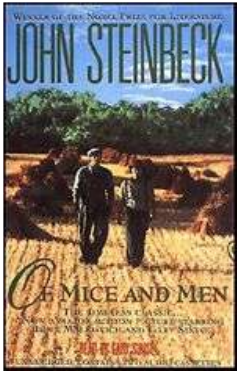
What do you think will happen

to George and Lennie?

“Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don't belong no place.... With us it ain't like that. We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us. We don't have to sit in no bar room blowin' in our jack jus' because we got no place else to go. If them other guys gets in jail they can rot for all anybody gives a damn. But not us.”

~George Milton





Find the ANSWER
in OF MICE AND MEN
by John Steinbeck