

## Study Questions for John Steinbeck's *Flight*

*Directions:* Please write answers to the following questions in complete sentences on your own piece of paper.

1. Please read the whole story, and read it well. Summarize your overall impressions of the story.
2. Explain how Pepe's knife functions as a symbol.
3. Describe the setting from the beginning of the story, on the farm / homestead where Pepe lives his mother and siblings.
4. Describe the setting at the end of the story, where Pepe ends up.
5. How does Steinbeck seem to be using setting symbolically?
6. Mama calls Pepe numerous animal names. List five.
7. During Pepe's journey, many different animals are mentioned. List five.
8. How, exactly, does Pepe's horse die? After losing his horse, how does Steinbeck characterize Pepe as an animal himself?
9. What is Steinbeck's idea in the three paragraphs where a mountain lion sits and looks at Pepe, who is wounded and sucking water from cloth, before the lion slinks off and men come into the scene?
10. Based on these patterns, and on *Of Mice and Men*, how does Steinbeck seem to use animals in his fiction?
11. Explain how this is a rite of passage story. In your opinion, does Pepe succeed in the rite of passage or does he fail? Why do you think so?