

## *Of Mice and Men* Mock Trial Character Witness Packet

### Responsibilities:

- You will review the scenes in the book that your character was in or referred to, so you will become an expert on your character.
- You will need to interpret your character's thoughts, conversations, and actions, so you can decide whether your character would find George guilty or not guilty for killing Lennie.
  - What interactions does your character have with George? Are they friendly? Do they have a hostile relationship? Is your character indifferent to George? Who has more power?
  - Would your character be sympathetic to George's decision? Would they be angry?
  - Was your character angry with Lennie? Do they hold George accountable for Lennie's actions?
  - What is your character's personality and temperament?
  - What would your character want? Justice? Mercy?
- You will create a character testimony that both the defense and prosecution teams will analyze and base some of their direct- and cross-questions. Your testimony will describe your character and tell the book's events from your character's perspective. Like your character diaries, your testimony will use dialect and try to convey the character's personality and motivations.
- You will work with your lawyer's team to create a strong narrative based on your character's perspective. You will practice how you will respond to their direct questions and create a script using evidence from *Of Mice and Men*. Direct, open-ended questions invite you to tell a story and speak freely, so you do not want to respond by only saying "yes" or "no"—elaborate!
  - Example: "Where were you on the night of Lennie's death?" Response: "Why, I was 'n the barn, fixin' a horse's shoe when I heard the shouts from the guys. So, I was curious and went to check it out and I..."
- You will anticipate what the other team might ask you to discredit your character or your interpretation. They will ask you close-ended questions that force you to only respond with a "yes" or "no" and try to use your words against you. Try to regain control and defend yourself and team. You will think of your character's weaknesses and try to come up with evidence-based responses that spin the argument.
  - Example: "Is it true that you saw Lennie Small crush Curley's hand?" Response: "Yes, I did, but it was an accident! He looked all scared and confused and he got all blanked eye' and distant-lookin' like he didn' know what he was doin'."
- Try to add creativity to your performance! Use dialect and costuming to better portray your character!

## Character Witness Checklist

### Character Believability:

- ☐ Evidence is relevant to your team's case or the opposing team's case
- ☐ Evidence is cited
- ☐ You fully understand your character: his motivations, actions, personality

### Testimony/Persuasive Argument:

- ☐ Character is clear and believable
  - You are knowledgeable about your character: their backstory, desires, motivations, relationships
  - Your language reflects your character and his background
- ☐ Character is persuasive:
  - Your character shows obvious bias: your testimony helps argue your team's case
  - Your character spins the evidence and information to reinforce team's case
- ☐ Testimony is typed; Times New Roman; 12 point font; double-spaced
  - ☐ Includes Work Cited
  - ☐ At least a page long

### Cooperation:

- ☐ Worked well and respectfully with teammates
- ☐ Stayed on task; turned in assignments on time
- ☐ Argument is consistent with lawyers' case
- ☐ Practiced direct questioning with lawyers

### Performance:

- ☐ Character is clear and believable:
  - Your language, behavior, and dress reflects your character role
- ☐ You have memorized—or nearly memorized—your testimony, direct questioning script, and have a premeditated response to cross-examination
- ☐ Character is persuasive:
  - Your character shows obvious bias: your testimony helps argue your team's case
  - Your character spins the evidence and information to reinforce team's case

## Character Sketch and Testimony

The purpose of the character sketch essay is to paint a picture of the character. Your essay will concentrate on revealing the personality and disposition of the character. *Be very descriptive!* As a writer, it is your job to choose words that will allow your reader to envision the character accurately. Your essay must include descriptions of the character's appearance, but the majority of it will explain what the character is like as a person – his personality and character traits.

Step One:

- List your characters physical characteristics
- Make note of mannerisms, gestures, language, voice
- Introduce the character by including your character's personality traits and insights. Ask Mrs. Walkup for a character trait sheet.

Step Two:

- Describe the book's events and interactions from your character's perspective
- Describe the day of Lennie's death from your perspective: What were you doing? What did you see? How did you react? What did you feel?
- Reveal your character's opinion of the defendant's guilt or innocence and why you feel this way. Describe the relevant events or conversations that would affect your character's opinion of George and his guilt. You must include quotes from the book to support your interpretation of these events.

How would you describe your character's personality?

Descriptions

Evidence with page numbers

<i>Crooks is defensive because other men have historically mistreated him, so he tries to distance himself from them.</i>	<i>"They say I stink. Well, I tell you, you all stink to me" (65)</i>

Character Witness Graphic Organizer: Character actions

Throughout the book, what did your character do? Why did they do it? Refer back to your character charts.

Description of actions	Evidence w/ pg. #	Intention	Team's argument bias
<i>Lennie tried to subdue Curley by grabbing his arm, so Curley couldn't hurt or harass anyone. Lennie attacked after George gave an order, but didn't let go.</i>	<i>"George yelled again, 'I said get him.' But Lennie watched in terror the flopping little man whom he held... still Lennie held on to the closed fist" (60).</i>	<i>Lennie did not start the fight—Curley did—and he only fought after George gave him an order. It seems like an accident.</i>	<i>While George did not intend to seriously harm Curley, he cannot control his strength or emotions, which makes him a threat to society. George had to kill Lennie to prevent future harm.</i>

Character Witness Graphic Organizer: What was your character doing the day of Lennie's death?

What did they do that day?	Evidence w/ pg. #	Team's argument bias

What did they see that day?	Evidence w/ pg. #	Team's argument bias

What did they hear that day?	Evidence w/ pg. #	Team's argument bias

What did they feel?	Evidence w/ pg. #	Team's argument bias

## Character Witness Timeline

### Day One/November 30th:

- ☐ Get and learn about role
- ☐ Talk with lawyers about your case's strategy and argument
- ☐ Every member turns in an exit slip:
  - What is your team's strategy?
  - How is your witness role going to help your team's case? What is your character contributing?
  - What scenes and interactions are you going to focus on?

### Day Two/December 1<sup>st</sup>:

- ☐ Begin looking through the book and finding your character: What are they doing? What are they thinking? What are their reactions?
- ☐ Begin looking at events surrounding Lennie's death (from your character's perspective)
- ☐ Use graphic organizers to organize evidence and interpretations
- ☐ Use entire quotes—do not paraphrase!—with citations (page numbers)

### Day Three/December 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- ☐ Continue looking for evidence on character's actions and events surrounding Lennie's death
- ☐ Use graphic organizers to organize evidence
- ☐ Use entire quotes—do not paraphrase!—with citations (page numbers)
- ☐ Begin persuasive paper/character testimony
- ☐ Must complete draft of testimony before class Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>!

### Day Four/December 5<sup>th</sup>:

- ☐ Bring in draft of testimony for lawyers to discuss
- ☐ Assess whether any changes need to be made to testimony
- ☐ Conference with Mrs. Walkup
- ☐ Make changes to draft

### Day Five/December 6<sup>th</sup>:

- ☐ Talk with lawyers: plan and write direct questions that tell your character's story and emphasize your case's argument
- ☐ Write scripted responses to direct questions

### Day Six/December 7<sup>th</sup>:

- ☐ Look over your testimony
- ☐ Anticipate what the opposing lawyers will ask your character to discredit your or your argument
- ☐ Write possible cross-examination questions and responses

### Day Seven/December 8<sup>th</sup>:



- ☐ Finish all written items: testimony, direct questions and responses, anticipated cross-examination questions and responses
- ☐ Conference with team
- ☐ Conference with Mrs. Walkup
- ☐ Rehearse

Day Eight/December 9<sup>th</sup>:

- ☐ Rehearse
- ☐ Turn in a copy of testimony to your team, opposing team, and Mrs. Walkup

Day Nine/December 12:

- ☐ **Performance!!!**
- ☐ Turn in all work, if haven't already: testimony, scripts, research, etc.