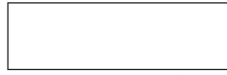


90849



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

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SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

Level 1 English, 2012

90849 Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence

9.30 am Monday 12 November 2012

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence.	Show convincing understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence.	Show perceptive understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Excellence

TOTAL

7

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

Your essay should be at least 200 words long. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

Support the points you make with spec

The candidate has perceptively addressed both aspects of the question: a description of the Great Depression setting and how it helped their understanding of the idea of the American Dream.

Begin your written text(s) essay here:

The novella 'Of Mice and Men' is set in a difficult time. John Steinbeck wrote the book in the height of the Great Depression in America. This time setting helps the reader to understand that the main characters, George and Lennie are different because they travel together and work together, the depression setting also helps us understand the 'American Dream' of the time. Two place settings helped the further understanding of these ideas, the pool symbolises George and Lennie's American dream and the ranch shows why George and Lennie have to stick together.

In the introduction, the candidate has identified the setting and indicated its relevance to understanding the idea.

In the 1930s the Great Depression left much of the world without work or much income. In America a popular way to work became travelling around doing short-term contract labour. The idea of the importance of friendship is shown through this aspect of setting because George and Lennie choose to travel together rather than alone as was the norm. These two men make a good team, George is able to talk to people and Lennie is a good strong worker. This team that they create is different because they need each other 'I got you to look after me and you got me to look after

you' where the men who they often work with move around alone.

The candidate reveals a perceptive understanding, including a contextual appreciation of the era in which the novel is set.

During the Great Depression many individuals took on an 'American dream' as a symbol of hope to escape the poverty at the time. George and Lennie are no exception to this dream but their difference is that they share it and truly believe they will achieve it. The land that they want to buy is real, they know how much they need to get it and are prepared to sacrifice short-term rewards for it. While the other men travel into town every Saturday night, George and Lennie stay where they are working and entertain themselves. One of the men on the ranch, Crooks, tells them 'nobody gets to heaven and nobody gets no land'. This shows that although many men share a common dream of hope they do not believe in it with all their heart but George and Lennie do.

The candidate shows a detailed knowledge of the text, but only includes a judicious selection of details that are relevant to the question.

The pool that features at the beginning and the end of the novella symbolises the dream that George and Lennie share. It is a Garden of Eden, a place where they seek rest before they start their new ranch placement. George tells Lennie that if he is in trouble he should return to the pool as they share their dream for land and a new lifestyle. When, at the end of the book, Lennie accidentally kills Curley's wife on the ranch he flees for the pool where George finds him. The Garden of Eden parallel takes on

new meaning when this pool, a place of refuge becomes tainted as George kills Lennie, symbolically shattering the dream that they shared together.

The ranch is a place in the novella where George and Lennie have to stick together more than usual, a slip of the ~~tongue~~ ~~tongue~~ tongue or hand could lose them their jobs. Lennie is a mentally ill individual who George must look after, the tie that they have is not deeply discussed in the book but the reader is led to believe that they ~~are~~ have been forced into a great friendship in a time of need. During the time, all of the men on short-term work placements were easily replaceable, if you could not work to the standards you were at risk of being laid off, without each other Lennie and George would be especially vulnerable to ~~being~~ be let off or fired. 7

The settings for 'Of Mice and Men' help understand several key ideas in the text, the Great Depression as a time period, the pool and the ranch all ~~prop~~ provide important settings in which these key ideas were shown. The importance of George and Lennie's friendship was one of these key ideas shown through the ranch and the Great Depression. The significance of the American dream as a ~~key~~ key idea was shown through the Great Depression and the pool.

The candidate has developed and sustained an insightful discussion, exploring several aspects of the setting and how it has helped their understanding about the key idea.