

Subject Terminology and Writing Techniques	Examples
Imagery: a technique in which the author appeals to the senses i.e. seeing, hearing, touching.	The little evening breeze blew over the clearing and the leaves rustled and the wind waves flowed up the green pool. And the shouts of men sounded again.
Simile: a descriptive technique that compares two things using the words ‘as’ or ‘like’.	Curley stepped over to Lennie like a terrier.
Metaphor: a descriptive technique that names a person, thing or action as something else.	I seen her give Slim the eye. Curley never seen it. An’ I seen her give Carlson the eye.
Extended metaphor: a metaphor that is developed in great detail, with the writer using a series of linked tenors, vehicles and grounds over a number of sentences and even paragraphs.	George often plays Solitaire (which means ‘alone’) a card game for one player. This is an extended metaphor for the loneliness of the characters and also a metaphor for George’s desire to be without the burden of Lennie’s company
Personification: giving human characteristics to something that is non-human.	The silence fell on the room again. It came out of the night and invaded the room.
Onomatopoeia: when words evoke the actual sound of the thing or action they refer to or describe.	There was the buzz of flies in the air, the lazy afternoon humming . From outside, came the clang of horseshoes on the playing peg.
Semantic field: a set of words that are related in meaning. Steinbeck uses semantic field of the colour red to highlight its two most traditional connotations; sex, and danger. Curley's wife is covered in the colour red, which exaggerates both her promiscuity and dangerous nature.	She had full rouged lips...Her fingernails were red ...She wore a cotton house dress and red mules, on the insteps of which were little bouquets of red ostrich feathers
Pathetic fallacy: a type of personification where emotions are given to a setting, an object or the weather. Steinbeck uses pathetic fallacy to describe the barn and to create a sense of lost hope and happiness which is replaced with silence, sadness and pity.	It was very quiet in the barn, and the quiet of the afternoon was on the ranch. Even the clang of the pitched shoes, even the voices of the men in the game seemed to grow quiet. The air in the barn was dusky in advance of the outside day.
Cyclical structure: a structural technique where the ending of the text mirrors the opening. In this novella, there is a sense of things happening in a certain order and being repeated. This is reflected in the way that the book starts and ends in the same place - the pool. This gives the reader the impression that the ending is inevitable and nothing can be done to stop it. George and Lennie’s attempts to move ahead in life are futile.	Everything that happens, happens in a cycle: The men’s daily routine is cyclical; Lennie killing things which get bigger and bigger, happens in cycles; George and Lennie are stuck in a cycle of getting into trouble; there is the cycle of the death of ‘dumb’ creatures with no quality of life; the beginning and ending of many of the chapters are similar in mood and style.
Adverbial: a word or phrase telling the reader when or where something is happening, or in what manner.	In a moment Lennie came crashing through the brush. On the sandy bank under the trees the leaves lie deep. Slowly , like a terrier...Lennie approached.
Listing: when the writer includes several words/ phrases/ ideas, one after the other to add emphasis to a point or idea.	S’pose you didn’t have nobody. S’pose you couldn’t go into the bunk house and play rummy ‘cause you was black... S’pose you had to sit out here an’ read books.
Paragraphing: Paragraphing: TiPToP- Ti - stands for Time, so start a new paragraph for a different time period. P - stands for Place, so start a new paragraph for each new place. To - stands for Topic, so start a new paragraph for each new topic, idea or subject. P stands for Person, so start a new paragraph when a different person speaks.	The boss licked his pencil. “What’s your name?” “George Milton.” “And what’s yours?” George said, “His name’s Lennie Small.”
Discourse markers: linking words which show the connection between what has already been written or said and	I can see Lennie ain’t a bit mean.

Sentences Types		Examples
Simple	A sentence consisting of only one main clause, with a single subject and verb.	The wooden latch raised.
Compound	Two or more simple sentences joined together with either a semi-colon or a connective ('and', 'or', 'but').	The door opened and a tall, stoop-shouldered old man came in.
Complex	A sentence consisting of a main clause (simple sentence) and a subordinate clause (which contains a verb but doesn't make sense on its own).	Near one wall there was a black cast-iron stove, its stovepipe going straight up through the ceiling.
Minor	A sentence which is not grammatically complete: it has a capital letter and a punctuation mark to end it, but often does not include a verb.	Yeah, five.
Varying Sentence Beginnings		Examples
Begin with an adverbial	An adverbial is a word or phrase telling the reader when or where something is happening, or in what manner .	A few miles south of Soledad , the Salinas River drops in close to the hillside bank and runs deep and green. After a pause , Crooks said, "Maybe you better go along to your own house now."
Begin with a verb	A verb is a word used to describe an action such as feeling, hearing, becoming, walking, shouting...	Feeling tired and dejected, George walked back towards the ranch.
Begin with an adverb	An adverb is a word or phrase that describes, modifies or qualifies a verb such as, suddenly, loudly, well, never, today...	Suddenly , Lennie appeared out of the brush, and he came as silently as a creeping bear moves.
Begin with an adjective(s)	An adjective describes a noun such as tranquil, undisturbed, tired, relieved, huge...	Tranquil and undisturbed , the pool bathed in the evening sunlight.
Begin with a simile	A simile is a descriptive technique that compares two things using the words 'as' or 'like'.	Like little, grey sculptured stones , the rabbits sat quietly on the sandbanks.

Of Mice and Men Reading Key Vocabulary List

Vocabulary	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms?
1. context	Noun: relates to the background of a literary text and the writer and the ideas that influence them from their historical and social setting.	It is important to understand the context of <i>Of Mice and Men</i> : what would have been happening in that place and time.	background circumstances framework
2. itinerant	Noun: a person who travels from place to place	During the 1930s, many itinerant non-skilled agricultural workers struggled to find permanent employment.	migrant transient drifter nomad refugee
3. novella	Noun: a short novel or long short story.	A work of fiction between 20,000 and 49,999 words is considered a novella .	fiction prose narrative tale
4. tranquil	Adjective: free from disturbance; calm and peaceful	The garden is full of plum trees, foxgloves and songbirds that give the family a tranquil surrounding.	peaceful serene soothing undisturbed idyllic
5. idyllic	Adjective: extremely peaceful or picturesque	The tiny town by the sea is an idyllic place for the young couple to raise their twin daughters.	peaceful picturesque blissful heavenly utopian
6. verdant	Adjective: covered with healthy green plants, grass and other rich vegetation	Much of the region's verdant countryside has been destroyed in the hurricane.	green rich lush flourishing thriving
7. spontaneous	Adjective: acting on a sudden impulse	My friend suddenly let out a spontaneous laugh.	unplanned impulsive impetuous
8. naïve	Adjective: having a lack of knowledge, experience, or realistic judgment	It was naïve to think that the war could be won in just a few months.	innocent ignorant simple unsophisticated
9. astute	Adjective: keen in understanding and judgment; shrewd	Her teacher was impressed with Sarah's astute interpretation of the poem	shrewd quick-witted sharp smart clever

10. reckless	Adjective: paying no attention to danger; not at all careful	She is a reckless driver and often goes much too fast.	careless incautious rash impulsive
11. meagre	Adjective: (of something provided or available) lacking in quantity or quality.	The furnishings in the bunk house were meagre .	inadequate limited modest sparse
12. socio-cultural	Adjective: combining social and cultural factors.	As women, we are influenced by the same socio-cultural factors that affect all women in our culture.	sociological
13. antagonistic	Adjective: showing or feeling active opposition or hostility towards someone or something.	He was extremely antagonistic towards the new men.	hostile opposed aggressive belligerent confrontational quarrelsome
14. confrontational	Adjective: tending to deal with situations in an aggressive way; hostile or argumentative.	Stanley is very confrontational with Blanche and slightly rude.	aggressive argumentative combative contentious feisty
15. insistent	Adjective: insisting on or demanding something; not allowing refusal.	She was most insistent that we shouldn't leave the door unlocked.	incessant unremitting persistent determined tenacious
16. victimised	Verb: to be singled out for cruel or unjust treatment.	For years the family had been victimised by racist neighbours.	exploited persecuted discriminated against
17. seductive	Adjective: tempting and attractive; enticing	There was something seductive about the way she smiled at him.	alluring captivating bewitching
18. flirtatious	Adjective: behaving in such a way as to suggest a playful sexual attraction to someone.	Her flirtatious manners are intended to attract the men's attention.	provocative seductive amorous
19. promiscuous	Adjective: having or involving many sexual partners.	I suppose I was quite promiscuous in my youth.	licentious unchaste
20. oppressed	Adjective: subject to harsh and authoritarian treatment.	In Nazi Germany ethnic minorities, such as Jews, were	persecuted maltreated exploited victimised

		systematically oppressed .	
21. hierarchy	Noun: a system in which members of an organisation or society are ranked according to relative status or authority.	In regards to political decisions, the prime minister sits at the top of the British hierarchy .	ranking (social) order (social) scale (social) pyramid
22. realism	Noun: a style of writing that gives the impression of reflecting faithfully an accurate way of life.	Dickens' stories had an edge of realism that made it easy to forget they were fiction.	truth verity verisimilitude
23. naturalism	Noun: a deliberate style of realism in novels and plays, usually involving a view of human beings as passive victims of natural forces and social environment.	Naturalist novels often depict the world as a place where you have to fight to survive in a universe that has no morality and doesn't care about you.	conformity adherence
24. foreboding	Noun: a feeling that something bad will happen; fearful apprehension.	With a sense of foreboding she read the note.	apprehension trepidation dread
25. aloof	Adjective: not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant.	Because Harry was aloof , he did not have many friends.	detached unapproachable haughty
26. ostracised	Verb: excluded from a society or group.	She was declared a witch and ostracised from the community	banished excluded shunned