**Literature Resource Center** is an online database that provides direct access to biographies, literary criticism, bibliographies, work overviews, websites, and additional resources on many authors and their works.

### How to Access the Literature Resource Center

1. Go to the Blinn Library Homepage: http://www.blinn.edu/library/
2. Select “Articles & Databases.”
3. Select “Literature and Literary Criticism” from “Databases by Subject” list
4. Select “Literature Resource Center”. If you are accessing this database from off campus you will be prompted to enter a user name (student ID #) and password (date of birth (yyyymmdd)).

### How to Search for Literary Criticism

**Step One:** Type the name of the author in *person by or about* box. To narrow your search to a particular work by that author, type the name of the work into the *name of work* box. You can also add additional terms in the *keyword* box. Click on “Search.”

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Use person box to type in your author’s name
Step Two: Works of criticism will be listed. There is also more information under the blue “Biographies” and “Topic” tabs. Click on the individual citations for the full text in text or some in pdf format. Use can also narrow down your list by adding additional subject headings from the left side bar.

Step Three: By clicking on the blue, hyperlinked citations, you will be able to view the complete text of the articles. From this screen, you will also have the options of printing the article, sending it via email, or downloading to your computer. Look for the “Tools” box on the right side of the screen.
Citing Full Text Articles from the Literature Resource Center

A citation for a full text journal article retrieved from a library subscription database includes additional information such as the name of the database, the database service (e.g. Gale), the library providing access, and the date of access. Speak to your instructor for guidelines in citing these articles. The library has copies of various style manuals for library use and check out. The citation for your article is given at the bottom of the page. **MAKE SURE THIS IS IN THE CORRECT FORMAT. CHECK WITH YOU INSTRUCTOR.**

Yet at the edges of this desperate gloom, Steinbeck shows us glimpses of a better world. The rancho hands play a hide-and-seek game in which Crooks is allowed to participate, and the convivial parties on stage and之间的 suggest the possibility of holding property in common. George has progressed from an attitude in the past in Sacramento when he exploited and induced Lennie to a paternal role in which he now cares for him. The novel closes with a vision of those like Carlson and Curley who will never understand the emotions and needs of others, and those like George and Slim who are capable of understanding and forming friendships but who have to cope with a society so sickened by the struggle to survive that they are forced into mercy killing. Thus the glimmer of hope for a better world is violently extinguished.

Of Mice and Men argues that the gulf between the gritty struggle for survival and the ideal dream life can never be bridged, except in death. While Steinbeck exposes the inequalities in society and encourages the reader to sympathize with the plight of poor migrant workers, his depiction of the inherent will to power in human nature shows us that attempts to change the social system will be futile. As the opening scene reminds us, men are trapped in a net of relations which work like fate. Americans will continue to dream, like Martin Luther King, that the nation will live out the true meaning of its creed, that all men are created equal. But for Steinbeck, the American Dream of self-sufficiency and living off the fat of the land, premised as it is on a gun culture which involves brutality and the exploitation of the weak, is doomed to failure. The magnitude of this failure is recorded by the extent to which Lennie, a cipher for America, is denied life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Further reading


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