Teaching notes

Use the diamond nine to explore the theme of power and authority. This is a useful activity to complete at two different points in the novel e.g. halfway through reading and then again after. You’ll probably find that students’ opinions about who has the most/least power and authority on the ranch have changed and this can open up some interesting discussion.

Individually, in pairs or in small groups, ask students to arrange the characters in terms of power and authority. The person with the most should be placed at the top and the person with the least should be placed at the bottom.

You can print off the card sort (below) or ask students to write the character’s name into the boxes drawn in their books.

Characters:

The Boss, Curley, Curley’s wife, George, Lennie, Candy, Crooks, Carlson, Slim.

You can replace The Boss with Whit (though he appears little more than The Boss) as this may provoke more interesting discussion about who has the most power and authority.

When students have completed the task, discuss how they made their decisions and who they found the most difficult to place.
Task

Write the following characters’ names into the diamond, putting the character you feel has the most power and authority at the top moving down to the character with the least power and authority. Make sure you’re able to justify your decisions and discuss the choices you made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Boss</th>
<th>Curley</th>
<th>Curley’s wife</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lennie</td>
<td>Candy</td>
<td>Crooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slim</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>Carlson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. [Name]
2. [Name]
3. [Name]
4. [Name]
5. [Name]
6. [Name]
7. [Name]
8. [Name]
9. [Name]
**Task**

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