The Learning Grid concept is inspired by Stephen Bowkett who ran a course on this, which in turn featured in Outstanding Teaching: Engaging Learners. Learning grids are designed for students to work on in pairs, but could be completed as a team challenge or pairs of pairs who could compare their learning.

Students will need a die each (or per pair) and a learning grid (or you could project this on the whiteboard). Students use the die to determine which two cells in the grid they will talk about first. Each pair rolls a die once to determine the number of the row; they then roll the die again to determine the number of the column. For example, if they first roll a 3 then a 6, they would have landed on the image of vegetables. Their first task is to explain the relevance of that image (or word/s) to the first chapter of Of Mice and Men. Next, they should repeat the process and then explain any links between the two cells. So, for example, if they next roll a 2 then a 1, they would explain how vegetables connect with the men talking. In this case, they might comment that the vegetable patch forms part of the dream held by Lennie and George to be self-sufficient by living 'off the fatta the lan'.

You could set a time limit for students to work on this activity, or set a number of pairs of cells for them to link together. This resource is designed to be extremely flexible, so you could add an element of competition by pitting pairs of students against each other, or adapting the grid to suit your students. You could even set grids for Section Two as homework.

**Pictures in the learning grid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1:2</th>
<th>1:4</th>
<th>2:1</th>
<th>2:3</th>
<th>2:6</th>
<th>3:1</th>
<th>3:5</th>
<th>3:6</th>
<th>4:2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A map of California</td>
<td>A bus ticket</td>
<td>Talking heads (to symbolise friendship).</td>
<td>'A stilted heron'</td>
<td>Dollars</td>
<td>A mouse</td>
<td>Sleeping under the stars</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Ranch houses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A river with mountains in the background</td>
<td>A bear's paw (symbolising Lennie's hands)</td>
<td>Sunshine/heat</td>
<td>A dove (one of the birds flying by, suggesting tranquillity)</td>
<td>A rabbit</td>
<td>A dress (to symbolise the girl in Weed …)</td>
<td>A puppy</td>
<td>Beans cooking over a fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
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<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>Weakness</td>
<td>1920’s and 1930’s</td>
<td>Work cards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Microcosm</td>
<td>Salinas Valley</td>
<td>Weed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Friendship</td>
<td>Aunt Clara</td>
<td>Strength</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Robert Burns</td>
<td>Lennie</td>
<td>Nuts!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Loneliness</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Dust Bowl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Great Depression</td>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>American Dream</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Section One

**Learning grid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<td>Friendship</td>
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<td>1920's and 1930's Work cards</td>
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<td>Lennie</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Dust Bowl</td>
<td>American Dream</td>
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