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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute  
2011 Volume I: Writing with Words and Images

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## Exploring Steinbeck's World through Words and Images

Guide for Curriculum Unit 11.01.08  
by Sean T. Griffin

This unit is meant to build background knowledge in my ninth-grade class before the class begins to read Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, but the unit's approach can be applied to the study of any novel or author on which a teacher wishes to focus. My intention is to encourage students to create pieces of knowledge in a variety of forms that, when considered together and displayed in the classroom, will foster a solid image-based understanding of Steinbeck and his world that students will refer to throughout their reading. The students will be encouraged to unlock Steinbeck's world through a host of activities and assignments. The aim is help them to maintain an elevated level of interest throughout the reading and simultaneously to encourage higher-level learning and a broad knowledge base that will help students better analyze literature.

(Recommended for English, grades 9 and 10)

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