



Welcome to the eighth grade! We believe that books can open new worlds and provide novel experiences to readers. Reading can help develop one's imagination and increase one's knowledge while expanding vocabulary as well as increasing composition skills. All eighth grade students are required to read Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck and Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga. For Other Words for Home, students will complete the written assignment outlined below. This assignment will be graded and is due on the first day of class. While there is no written assignment for Of Mice and Men, students will take a quiz and complete several in-class assignments on the novel. Students will also be expected to be able to compare and contrast the journeys of the protagonists. We look forward to working with you.



### Other Words for Home Written Assignment

Before you begin reading, please peruse the assignment below so that you know what you need to focus on as you read. In your own book, I recommend that you highlight or underline certain words or phrases that are important and take notes in the margins.

Please analyze the following in **complete sentences**. Do not write an essay, but simply type the question and respond with your answer and related supporting details.

Make your answers short and specific. Provide textual evidence with page numbers if needed.

1. Why do you think the author told this story in verse form? Do you think that was an effective choice for the plot? How so?

2. Did your mindset about immigrants change at all after reading Jude's story? How did it change, and why do you think the story affected you? Try to be as specific as possible.
3. How was the idea of "hope" portrayed through the story? Give specific examples.
4. Compare and contrast Jude's life in the U.S. and in Syria.
5. What do you think is the most important lesson one can learn from this novel? How can you relate this lesson to our world today?
6. Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?

\*It may help to do some background reading on the situation in Syria before you begin the book. Please see the resources below for your reference.

- <https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/emergencies/child-refugees/syria-crisis>
- <https://whitehelmets.org/en>
- <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/syria>