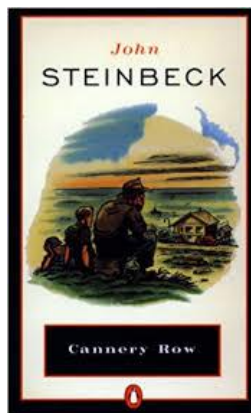


Cannery Row



ISBN-10	0-14-01-7738-8
ISBN-13	978-0-14-017738-1
Author	Steinbeck, John
Publisher	Penguin Books
Copyright	1945
Lexile	930L
Genre	Slice of Life
Synopsis	The adventures and misadventures of cannery workers living in the run-down waterfront section of Monterey, California, are recounted and exposed. California author.
Themes	Role of nature
Protagonist	Male, Cannery Worker
Note	Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.
More Information	www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Independent Study Lesson Plan Cannery Row, Week 1



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Change Requires Effort Change is possible. Change requires three things: a vision, a plan and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when I don't feel like working. It requires taking one step at a time.

Research and define each of the following background questions. They will be important pieces to the story. Answer each question in complete sentences.

Where is Cannery Row?

During what time period does this novel take place?

Why was this area called Cannery Row?

What are starfish?

When did the Great Depression take place in the United States?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

sturdy	nostalgia	contentment	courteous	benefactor
triumphed	disciplined	tact	hysteria	introspective
desolate	dictated	embalming	concupiscent	microscope
frantic	tranquil	narcotic	searing	haphazard
sere	outraging	foliage	contented	apathy

READ

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 1-49

RESPOND

Timeline List 15-20 of the most important events on your Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or Map: where did the characters go?

Map

Add Lee Chong's Grocery and the Abbeville Building to your map of Cannery Row.

Add the Bear Flag Restaurant to your map of Cannery Row.

Add The Great Tide Pool to your map of Cannery Row.

Add the Hediondo Cannery to your map of Cannery Row.

Open Mind Portrait: Create an Open Mind Portrait of a Character

New character information for Lee Chong can be added to an Open Mind Portrait.

Materials:

- Large piece of stiff paper for each character, like 11x17 oak tag
- Paper for bubbles with scissors and glue sticks
- Markers, crayons, pens, pencils, or paint
- Construction or tissue paper, scissors and glue sticks if desired

Step One: Create a large head shot of the character

1. Imagine what you think the character looks like from the descriptions in the text as well as your imagination. You can make a list of these details to help you draw the character, if you wish.
2. Decide how much of the character you wish to show: just the head and face? from the shoulders up? from the waist up? the whole person? You might want to include at least the shoulders to include some clothing details. You might want to show the size differences between characters.
3. Draw the characters head shot including the face on the large piece of paper. You could also cut the paper to form the head.
4. Illustrate your portrait with colors, construction paper or whatever will make the character colorful.

Step Two: Place cartoon bubbles of character thoughts around the portrait

1. Cut cartoon bubbles out.
2. Write things the character thinks, or says to him, on each bubble.
3. Put the bubbles up around the portrait.

Step Three: Add bubbles as you learn new things about the character

1. Read the story further and identify new things you have learned about the character, or ways the character has changed.
2. Follow step 2 to create and place additional bubbles.

Variations of this Open Mind Portrait:

1. You can use this process for any character in the story
2. You can use bubbles for what the character says, says to him or her, or does. You could make each of these different colors if you wish.
3. You could add bubbles for what the character learns, or ways the character changes, and use different colors for each.
4. You could use different colors for the beginning, middle and end of the story. Remember in the beginning you are introduced to the setting, the characters and the problems they have. In the middle you learn about the roadblocks to the characters solving their problems, and conflicts occur. In the end of the story those conflicts reach a peak and then resolve with a resolution of the character's problems.

5. You could use different colors for the phases you see in a story or the development of a particular character.
6. Instead of using bubbles you could write the bubble contents on the back of the portrait. You could use any of the variations above with color or print, or create columns or boxes for different categories or phases.
7. You could literally open the head like a hinge and list the contents [as though they were escaping from the space] using any of these variations.
8. You could make an Open Mind Portrait of yourself using any of the above variations.

Variations for Writing:

1. You could use the OMP to help write a character sketch, or to help decide what a character might do in a story.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Character Illustration

After you have finished today's reading, you will complete a character illustration for Lee Chong, which will include a drawing of Lee Chong's grocery store. You should use the text for information about the character and the setting. You should also write down important character traits about Lee Chong.

Complete another character illustration for Doc, which will include a drawing of The Great Tide Pool on the tip of the peninsula. You should use the text for information about the character and the setting. You should also write down important character traits about Doc.

Argumentative Letter

Pretend you are a friend of William the watchman's. Write a short, argumentative letter persuading him not to take his own life. Use words, devices and language that is gentle yet firm in an effort to effectively persuade William.

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 1-13)

1. Why do you think Horace Abbeville shot himself? Why do you think Steinbeck chooses to open the novel with this account?
2. Why does Lee Chong think that a man has the right to kill himself? Do you agree?
3. Why does Lee Chong allow Mack and his friends to stay in the building even though he knows they won't pay him?

Key Questions (p. 14-21)

1. Why does Dora Flood have to contribute the most to the community? Does her business help or hurt the community? Should she be viewed as the most or least moral? Why?

2. Why does William care if Mack and the other bums do not accept him?
3. Why does Steinbeck start the novel with two accounts of suicide?

Key Questions (p. 22-29)

1. Why does Steinbeck include these short chapters between the longer chapters? Do they have a purpose?
2. Why was Andy so terrified by what he saw? What made it so terrifying?
3. Why does Steinbeck use so many lists in his writing? What effect does this listing have?
4. What role does Doc play in the community of Cannery Row?

Key Questions (p. 30-37)

1. How do Doc and Hazel think differently? Does this difference say anything about them as characters?
2. Is it possible for something to be “tranquil and lovely and murderous” as Steinbeck says on page 31?
3. Why do you think Doc continues to entertain Hazel’s questions even though he has answered them many times?
4. What significance does Hazel’s name have?

Key Questions (p. 38-49)

1. Why does Mack feel the need to give each man a piece of their own space? What significance does this individual ownership of property have?
2. Why does the stove bring the men a feeling of pride?
3. Why do the men keep jobs for only a month or two? Why don’t they seem to want to keep steady jobs?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 1

“Its inhabitants are, as the man once said, ‘whores, pimps, gamblers, and sons of bitches,’ by which he meant Everybody. Had the man looked through another peephole he might have said, ‘Saints and angels and martyrs and holy men,’ and he would have meant the same thing” (p. 1).

Writing Prompt

Lee Chong’s grocery is an important part of the community in Cannery Row. Many customers rely on his generous credit to buy groceries.

Write 1-2 argumentative paragraphs about Lee Chong’s role in Cannery Row. Do you agree or disagree with his policy? Why do you think Lee Chong is so willing to let people pay on credit? Do you think you would be as generous as Lee Chong if you were in his position? Why or why not? Conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Key Paragraph, p. 15

“Our Father who art in nature, who has given the gift of survival to the coyote, the common brown rat, the English sparrow, the house fly and the moth, must have a great and overwhelming love for no-goods and blots-on-the-town and bums, and Mack and the boys. Virtues and graces and laziness and zest. Our Father who art in nature” (p. 15).

Writing Prompt

So far in the novel, Steinbeck introduces the audience to a certain type of person that inhabits Cannery Row. From what you have read so far, what kind of people live on Cannery Row? Is Steinbeck focusing on mainstream society, or is he focusing on a different part of society?

Write an argumentative paragraph in which you claim that the characters in *Cannery Row*, because of their status as marginalized members of the community, are more interesting and unique than if they were a part of mainstream society. What do their eccentricities – that is, their unusual and unexpected traits and actions – tell you about their lifestyle? Would the story be as entertaining if the characters belonged to a higher, more affluent social status? Use evidence from the text to support your ideas. Conclude with a reiteration of your claims.

Key Paragraph, p. 28-29

“Doc would listen to any kind of nonsense and change it for you to a kind of wisdom. His mind had no horizon—and his sympathy had no warp. He could talk to children, telling them very profound things so that they understood. He lived in a world of wonders, of excitement. He was concupiscent as a rabbit and gentle as hell. Everyone who knew him was indebted to him. And everyone who thought of him thought next, ‘I really must do something nice for Doc’” (p. 28-29).

Writing Prompt

Steinbeck spends a lot of time describing the characters and setting in this novel. As a reader, do you find these descriptions important? Are the descriptions interesting, or could the novel do without them? What do these details reveal about the characters and the setting?

Write an argumentative paragraph either in favor of or against Steinbeck’s descriptive style. Do you think that this style is an effective one? Why or why not? Would you write this book differently? Use evidence from the text to support your claims; include a counterargument, but be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Key Paragraph, p. 31

“Then the creeping murderer, the octopus, steals out, slowly, softly, moving like a great mist, pretending now to be a bit of weed, now a rock, now a lump of decaying meat while its evil goat eyes watch coldly. It oozes and flows toward a feeding crab, and as it comes close its yellow eyes burn and its body turns rosy with the pulsing color of anticipation and rage. Then suddenly it runs lightly on the tops of its arms, as ferociously as a charging cat. It leaps savagely on the crab, there is a puff of black fluid,

and the struggling mass is obscured in the sepia cloud while the octopus murders the crab" (p. 31).

Writing Prompt

Steinbeck provides several paragraphs describing the tide pool habitat. Many different species are represented (hermit crabs, anemones, and the octopus) as well as their unique role in the ecosystem. In many ways, these aquatic animals represent the different people who make up our human societies.

Write an argumentative paragraph in which you explain the significance of the 'octopus' character, both in the marine ecosystem, and – symbolically – in our society. Who is this character? Why is it important for the octopus to exist? Persuade your audience to see the value in this creature, but also provide a short counter-argument. Use evidence from the text as well as outside research to support your claims and conclude with a statement that summarizes your views.

Key Paragraph, p. 41-42

"With the great stove came pride, and with pride, the Palace became home. Eddie planted morning glories to run over the door and Hazel acquired some rather rare fuchsia bushes planted in five-gallon cans which made the entrance formal and a little cluttered. Mack and the boys loved the Palace and they even cleaned it a little sometimes. In their minds they sneered at unsettled people who had no house to go to and occasionally in their pride they brought a guest home for a day or two" (p. 41-42).

Writing Prompt

After they begin furnishing the Palace Flophouse, the men begin to feel a certain sense of pride. The more effort they put into their home, the more value it has for them.

Pretend you are one of the men who lives at the Palace Flophouse, but have been corresponding with a friend who wants you to move in with him. **Write a 1-2 paragraph argumentative letter to your friend, claiming why you prefer to live at the Palace Flophouse. Be descriptive; use evidence from the text to support your stance. Also, use language and words that are appropriate for the situation and audience you are addressing. Conclude with a reiteration of your claims.**

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Cannery Row, Week 2



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Change Requires Effort Change is possible. Change requires three things: a vision, a plan and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when I don't feel like working. It requires taking one step at a time.

Research and define each of the following background questions. They will be important pieces to the story. Answer each question in complete sentences.

In what year was this novel published? Does that affect the novel?

What is a Model T Ford? When were they produced?

Where is the Carmel River Valley?

Who was the US president at the time that this book was written?

What wars has the United States been involved in during the time that this novel takes place?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

deflected	ruefully	confidential	furrowed	intent
expedition	presumed	sullen	quarrel	irrelevant
outraged	sacrilegious	reverently	torrent	solicitous
replenish	mulling	imperceptible	gilded	monotonously
saturated	bellowed	millennia	parry	resent

READ

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 50-95

RESPOND

Timeline List 15-20 of the most important events on your Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or Map: where did the characters go?

Open Mind Portrait

Create an OMP for Frankie.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Dream Property Advertisement

This activity will help you understand some of the characters and the main ideas of the novel.

Create an advertisement for a future dream property. Use evidence from the text in order to create an advertisement for Mack and the boys' dream house. You can use the description of the Palace Flophouse, or use your imaginations to create a new property that would be desirable to the boys. If you decide to create an advertisement for the Palace Flophouse, you should use evidence from the text to support your advertisement.

Materials:

- Stiff paper 9x12 to 11x17
- Pencils, pens, crayons, markers
- Construction paper, scissors, glue sticks if desired

Begin creating an advertisement for a future dream property for Mack and the boys. You should start by making a list of details that the property should have. Use evidence from the text in your advertisement. Plan how you will illustrate the advertisement. Make sure your ad will appeal to Mack and the boys.

After completing today's reading, you will begin to write an advertisement appealing to Mack and the boys. You should provide details, hand-drawn images and/or quotes from the text in their advertisements. You may decide to write your advertisement about anything you believe will capture the attention of Mack and the boys (Palace Flophouse, a job catching frogs, etc.)

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 50-61)

1. Why is Doc hesitant when Mack comes to see him?
2. Why is Doc conflicted between business and philanthropy?

3. Does Mack's plan to earn money for Doc's party seem very well thought out? Will this plan end up helping or hurting Doc?
4. Why does Frankie spend so much time at Western Biological?
5. Why does Steinbeck say that Frankie is Doc's slave?

Key Questions (p. 62-70)

1. What role does the Model T Ford play in American society in this novel? Why?
2. Do you think that the men will ever get the frogs for Doc? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Key Questions (p. 71-80)

1. Why does Steinbeck include the story about Josh Billings?
2. What happens when Jones asks Eddie about the liquor he brings home?
3. Why does Mack say that you can't trust a married man? Where do the boys think Gay went?

Key Questions (p. 80-88)

1. Why does Mack begin to have problems with the idea of throwing Doc a party? Do you think he is right?
2. How does Steinbeck describe the mornings on Cannery Row? Why is this space in between light and the sunrise so beautiful?
3. Why is Mack so easily able to turn situations in his favor? What traits allows him to manipulate his situations?
4. What do you make of the young peoples' attitudes towards the watchman?

Key Questions (p. 89-95)

1. Why are Mack and the boys so glad that the captain's wife isn't home?
2. Why are the boys so easily distracted from their original plans to catch frogs?
3. What is Mack's new strategy for catching frogs?
4. Is it important that the captain feels indebted to Mack and the boys? Do you think Mack has people indebted to him often, or is it usually the other way around?
5. Has Mack forgotten his previous hesitations about their motives for throwing Doc a party?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 58

"And he came to the laboratory every day. It was an association without much talk. Doc by a telephone call established that what Frankie said was true. They didn't want him in school. He couldn't learn and there was something a little wrong with his coordination. There was no place for him. He wasn't an idiot, he wasn't dangerous, his parents, or parent, would not pay for his keep in an institution. Frankie didn't often sleep

at the laboratory but he spent his days there. And sometimes he crawled in the excelsior crate and slept. That was probably when there was a crisis at home” (p. 58).

Writing Prompt

In this section of the novel, we see Doc helping out Frankie. Doc seems to offer assistance to many people in the novel without receiving anything in return.

Write an argumentative paragraph in which you argue either for or against Doc’s tendency to help others. Are his actions good for the community? Are his actions ultimately hurting or helping himself? Support your claims with evidence from the text. Provide a counterargument and conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Key Paragraph p. 67-68

“Someone should write an erudite essay on the moral, physical, and esthetic effect of the Model T Ford on the American nation. Two generations of Americans knew more about the Ford coil than the clitoris, about the planetary system of gears than the solar system of stars. With the Model T, part of the concept of private property disappeared. Pliers ceased to be privately owned and a tire pump belonged to the last man who had picked it up. Most of the babies of the period were conceived in Model T Fords and not a few were born in them. The theory of the Anglo Saxon home became so warped that it never quite recovered” (p. 67-68).

Writing Prompt

Do you agree that “fate” didn’t allow Gay to get back to fix the truck or should the blame be placed on Gay? Why does Steinbeck attribute Gay’s actions to fate? Are Gay’s actions his own responsibility or can it all be assigned to fate?

Write an argumentative paragraph claiming either a) that Gay’s inability to join the men on their expedition was due to ‘fate’ or b) that Gay’s choices – and their consequences – prevented him from going on the trip. How does personal responsibility differ from fate? Research the meaning and origins of the word ‘fate’ to help support your argument. Also, use relevant evidence and details from the novel to further your claims. Conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Key Paragraph, p. 73

“The Model T Ford truck of Lee Chong had a dignified history. In 1923 it had been a passenger car belonging to Dr. W. T. Walters...The body of the car was so battered that its next owner cut it in two and added a little truck bed...Lee Chong got the truck in payment of a grocery bill” (p. 73).

Writing Prompt

Lee Chong’s truck has experienced a variety of owners and additions. By describing the truck in precise detail, Steinbeck draws attention to its unique history and appearance. How is the truck representative of the people of Cannery Row?

Pretend that you are Lee Chong. Someone has approached you, offering to buy your truck from you. **Write an argumentative paragraph to the prospective buyer, claiming that you will not sell the truck, even at a very generous price. Explain**

why it is valuable to you, even though it is old and has been altered. Use details from the text to support your opinions.

Key Paragraph, p. 85

“Early morning is a time of magic in Cannery Row. In the gray time after the light has come and before the sun has risen, the Row seems to hang suspended out of time in a silvery light. The streetlights go out, and the weeds are a brilliant green. The corrugated iron of the canneries glows with the pearly luccence of platinum or old pewter. No automobiles are running then. The street is silent of progress and business. And the rush and drag of the waves can be heard as they splash in among the piles of the canneries. It is a time of great peace, a deserted time, a little era of rest” (p. 85).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading, Steinbeck describes Cannery Row in the morning. **In 1-2 paragraph, create a claim arguing in favor of the statement “Cannery Row is at its best in the morning.” How does nature take the center stage? What role do humans play in this scene? Use evidence in the text as well as personal opinion to produce a concise and believable argument. Conclude with a reiteration of your stance.**

Key Paragraph, p. 94-95

“He wanted to go to live with them in the Palace Flophouse. He decided that his wife would like Mack and the boys if she only knew them. Finally he went to sleep on the floor with his head among the puppies” (p. 94-95).

Writing Prompt

So far in the novel, Steinbeck does not introduce many female characters. Why do you think Steinbeck focuses mainly on male characters? Do you think that he should have included more women in this novel?

Write 2 argumentative paragraphs explaining why you believe why there should/should not be more women in the novel. Provide support for your ideas and feel free to conduct outside research to further claims. In a second paragraph, argue whether or not you think women are portrayed in a positive light or a negative light. Why is this so?

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Cannery Row, Week 3



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Change Requires Effort Change is possible. Change requires three things: a vision, a plan and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when I don't feel like working. It requires taking one step at a time.

Research and define each of the following background questions. They will be important pieces to the story. Answer each question in complete sentences.

Where is La Jolla? How far is it from Cannery Row?

What is a tidal pool? Why is it such a good place to look for octopi?

What role did immigrants play in California during the time that this novel was written?

Who is Ed Ricketts? Why does Steinbeck dedicate this book to him?

What is astrology?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

tendency	consulted	inflamed	imbedded	relapses
imperceptibly	recedes	bounty	denounce	refuse
legitimate	stipulated	lauding	mercantile	precocious
fatigue	monotonal	resigned	schisms	swarthy
penance	maliciously	solidarity	ostracism	stigma

READ

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 96-150

RESPOND

Timeline List 15-20 of the most important events on your Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why

- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or Map: where did the characters go?

Map

Create a map that shows the coastline of California. Put dots on your map at every location you think that Doc stopped at.

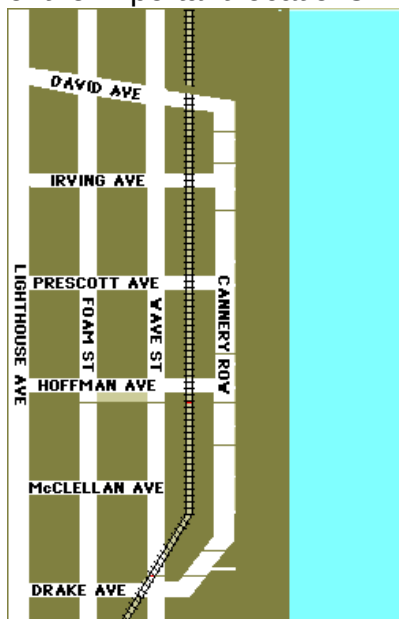
Create a map of La Jolla.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Cannery Row Layout

This activity will help you gain a better understanding of the setting of the novel and a better sense of the events that take place in the novel. Using the layout provided, use the book to create a layout of Cannery Row. You can use the layout provided as a model, but you will have to create their own layout of Cannery Row and will create illustrations of the important locations in the text.



Materials:

- Construction paper
- Pencils, pens, markers

Using the layout provided, begin to look through the book to plan the layout of Cannery Row, including important locations. Determine where important locations will go and begin to draw the buildings of Cannery Row. If Internet access is available, you can use the internet to look at pictures of historic buildings in Cannery Row to get a better idea

of what the buildings should look like. Record important events that occur at each of the illustrated locations.

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 96-106)

1. Why does Mack feel like Doc is lonely? Do you get that feeling too?
2. How does Doc feel about telling the truth? Why does he feel this way? Why are people so unsatisfied by truthful answers?
3. Why do you think Doc finally orders a beer milk shake? Why do you think he lies about why he wants a beer milkshake?
4. Why is Doc so offended by the hitchhiker?

Key Questions (p. 107-115)

1. Why do you think Doc tells the other man to report the body? Why wouldn't he want the bounty himself?
2. Why is everyone concerned with how Henri goes to the bathroom while skating? What is so fascinating about that?
3. Why does Henri want to break the world record? What will he get by doing so?

Key Questions (p. 116-127)

1. What role does money play in this chapter? What becomes the replacement for money? What does this say about the meaning or importance of money?
2. How does Mack get Lee Chong to accept his deal? What role does debt play in this novel? What do these debts mean to the people of Cannery Row?
3. Do you think Mack and the boys will save any of the whiskey for Doc? Why or why not?
4. Why do they have Doc's party without Doc? Was the idea of the party really about Doc, or was it about Mack and the boys? Did they repay their debts or just create new ones?

Key Questions (p. 128-138)

1. Why doesn't Mack fight back against Doc? Why does Mack say that he was glad when Doc hit him?
2. Why does Doc tell Mack that he doesn't want him to pay him back?
3. Why does Henri make up his stories about going to France and being a painter?
4. Why doesn't Henri want to finish his boat? What is he afraid will happen if he finishes it? Does it matter that the boat doesn't have a name?
5. What do you think Henri saw in his boat? Was he hallucinating?

Key Questions (p. 139-150)

1. Why doesn't Mack wash his face after Doc hits him?
2. Why does Hazel pick a fight and then lose on purpose? What does he hope to gain from this?
3. Why do the boys stop going to Lee Chong's? Have they created a debt that is too great to be repaid?

4. Why does Doc say that Mack and the boys are able to be so relaxed and comfortable while others are “successful” but miserable?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 104

“Because he loved true things, he tried to explain. He said he was nervous and besides he wanted to see the country, smell that ground and look at grass and birds and trees, to savor the country, and there was no other way to do it save on foot. And people didn’t like him for telling the truth. They scowled, or shook and tapped their heads, they laughed as though they knew it was a lie and they appreciated a liar. And some, afraid for their daughters or their pigs, told him to move on, to get going, just not to stop near their place if he knew what was good for him” (p. 104).

Writing Prompt

In this section of the reading, we see that Doc sometimes sacrifices his love of the truth in order to seem less eccentric. Have you ever had to lie in order to save your reputation or avoid unwanted questions?

Write an argumentative paragraph explaining why you believe/do not believe that the truth is always the best answer to give someone. Are white lies (harmless or trivial lies) more harmful than they are helpful? Support your claims with evidence from the text. Feel free to draw on personal information to aid your stance and provide an appropriate counterargument.

Key Paragraph, p. 109-110

“And the girl’s head went ahead of him. He sat down on the beach in the coarse dry sand and pulled off his boots. In the jar the little octopi were huddled up, each keeping as far as possible from the others. Music sounded in Doc’s ears, a high thin piercingly sweet flute carrying a melody he could never remember, and against this, a pounding surf-like wood-wind section. The flute went up into regions beyond the hearing range and even there it carried its unbelievable melody. Goose pimples came out on Doc’s arms. He shivered and his eyes were wet the way they get in the focus of great beauty. The girl’s eyes had been gray and clear and the dark hair floated, drifting lightly over the face. The picture was set for all time” (p. 109-110).

Writing Prompt

Doc finds a dead girl in the water while he collects octopi. Why do you think that Doc is so haunted by the girl? Is she real or is she just a creation of his imagination? How do you think you would react if you saw a dead girl in the water?

Pretend you are Doc. **Write a letter to the man you met by the sea in which you support your stance to refrain from collecting a bounty. Use words, phrases and logic you would expect Doc to use in order to make your argument clear and convincing; provide a counterargument, but make sure you conclude with a reiteration of your stance.**

Key Paragraph, p. 119

“The poison of greed was already creeping into the innocent and laudable merchandising agreement. Bitterness was piling up. But in Lee’s packing case the frogs were piling up too.

Financial bitterness could not eat too deeply into Mack and the boys, for they were not mercantile men. They did not measure their joy in goods sold, their egos in bank balances, nor their lives in what they cost” (p. 119).

Writing Prompt

Why don’t Mack and the boys get upset when Lee Chong starts to charge them more and more? Why are Mack and the boys unsusceptible to the bitterness caused by these financial transactions?

Write 2 paragraphs; in the first describe what you believe Mack and the boys truly value. In the second, argue either against or in favor of these values. How do they differ from your own? What do you believe is really valuable and worthwhile in life? Support your opinions with evidence from the book, but also use your own personal experience to create a convincing argument.

Key Paragraph, p. 132

“‘No you won’t, Mack,’ said Doc. ‘You’ll think about it and it’ll worry you for quite a long time, but you won’t pay for it. There’s maybe three hundred dollars in broken museum glass. Don’t say you’ll pay for it. That will just keep you uneasy. It might be two or three years before you forgot about it and felt entirely easy again. And you wouldn’t pay it anyway’” (p. 132).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading, Doc shatters the illusion that Mack presents him by telling him that, even though he intends to pay him back, he never will.

In a paragraph, argue either for or against self-honesty. Is it better to be honest with yourself? Or is it better to say what you think others want to hear? Back up your claims with evidence from *Cannery Row*, but also use personal experience to support your opinions. Be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Key Paragraph, p. 143

“‘It has always been strange to me,’ said Doc. ‘The things we admire in men, kindness and generosity, openness, honesty, understanding and feeling are the concomitants of failure in our system. And those traits we detest, sharpness, greed, acquisitiveness, meanness, egotism and self-interest are the traits of success. And while men admire the quality of the first they love the produce of the second’” (p. 143).

Writing Prompt

In this passage, Doc comments on the admirable traits that Mack and the boys possess; in spite of their sometimes careless and ill-planned actions, Doc realizes that they have pure hearts and mean well.

Write 1-2 paragraphs arguing whether or not Mack and the boys deserve to be punished for their actions. Should they be given another chance? Support your claims with evidence from the text as well as your own personal experience. If you were Doc, would you forgive Mack?

Character Based Literacy Program
Independent Study Lesson Plan
Cannery Row, Week 4



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Change Requires Effort Change is possible. Change requires three things: a vision, a plan and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when I don't feel like working. It requires taking one step at a time.

Research and define each of the following background questions. They will be important pieces to the story. Answer each question in complete sentences.

Are brothels legal? How is Dora able to keep her business open?

Are the canneries still open in Cannery Row?

What is a halfway house?

What is a 1916 Chalmers?

What is Cannery Row like now?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

satiric	gaiety	brood	abortive	pleurisy
dissection	wary	tactics	probed	malarkey
repose	provocative	milled	crescendo	inevitability
pathology	perverse	forlornly	reluctance	propriety
disembodied	ferment	progeny	murmur	wanton

READ

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 151-196

RESPOND

Timeline List 15-20 of the most important events on your Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or Map: where did the characters go?

Open Mind Portrait

New character information can be added to an Open Mind Portrait.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Vision Plan Bookmarks

This activity will help you better understand the actions and motivations of the characters in the novel.

Create a vision-plan for Mack and the boys. Look at all of Mack's goals throughout the novel and will determine whether he has achieved those goals or not. You will then be able to make predictions about Mack's life in the future.

Materials:

- Pieces of stiff paper 3-5 inches wide and 5-10 inches long
- Pencils, markers, pens
- Construction paper, scissors, glue sticks

Begin planning your vision plan for Mack and the boys. Review the text from the beginning to find goals that they set throughout the novel. Make a list of those goals. On the top third of one side of the bookmark, begin to fill in pictures, words, or symbols that represent the goals that Mack and the boys have. On the bottom two thirds of the bookmark, fill in pictures, words, or symbols that represent the goals that Mack and the boys have completed. On the back of the bookmark, include passages from the text that illustrate instances where Mack and the boys accomplish their goals. Use the empty space on the bookmark to make a prediction about Mack and the boys' goals for the future. Guess about the goals of Mack and the boys in the future based on what they have learned about the characters by completing the book. How have these goals changed throughout the novel? How have the characters changed? Do you believe they have changed for the better or for worse? Explain.

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 151-158)

1. Why is Mary Talbot so fond of parties? What is so attractive to her about parties?
2. Why does Gay stop letting the sheriff beat him at checkers?
3. What do you think caused this change in fortune in Cannery Row?

Key Questions (p. 158-165)

1. Why was Doc wary of a compliment from Mack? Why doesn't Doc tell Mack his real birthday?
2. Why does Willard ask Joey about his father if he knows that Joey's father is dead? Why does Joey laugh when Willard makes a joke about his father's suicide?

3. Why does Steinbeck include this story about Willard and Joey? What is he trying to communicate to the reader with this story?

Key Questions (p. 166-181)

1. What is the significance of the first sentence of Chapter 27?
2. Why is Frankie so obsessed with the bronze figure? Why does he try to steal it?
3. Why does Doc want to help Frankie? Why does Doc run away when Frankie tells him that he loves him?
4. Do you think that the party that Mack and the boys are planning for Doc will be more successful than the first party? Why or why not?

Key Questions (p. 182-189)

1. Why does Steinbeck say that a party is a “perverse individual”?
2. Why does Doc choose to read the passage that he chooses?
3. What is the mood of this party? What or who creates that mood and why do they create that mood?
4. How does the fight change the party? Does it make the party better or worse?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 152

“She could do that. She could infect a whole house with gaiety and she used her gift as a weapon against their despondency that lurked always around outside the house waiting to get in at Tom. That was Mary’s job as she saw it—to keep the despondency away from Tom because everyone knew he was going to be a great success some time. Mostly she was successful in keeping the dark things out of the house but sometimes they got in at Tom and laid him out. Then he would sit and brood for hours while Mary frantically built up a backfire of gaiety” (p. 152).

Writing Prompt

How is marriage represented in this novel? Think about Gay, the captain, and the Talbots. How do Mack and the boys feel about marriage? Does the relationship between Mary and Tom Talbot differ from previous portrayals of marriage in the novel?

Write a paragraph arguing in favor or against Steinbeck’s view of marriage? Do you believe that Steinbeck’s approach is correct? How do you view marriage? Use examples from the book as well as your own personal experience to inform your stance. Be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your claims.

Key Paragraph, p. 161

“When Mack left, Doc wondered casually what the build-up was. For he had recognized it as a lead. He knew Mack’s technique, his method. He recognized his style. And he wondered to what purpose Mack could put the information. It was only later when rumors began to creep in that Doc added the whole thing up. Now he felt slightly relieved, for he had expected Mack to put the bite on him” (p. 161).

Writing Prompt

What do you think is better: to have good intentions that get clouded by carelessness and tactlessness (think Mack and the boy's first attempt at Doc's party); or to have selfish motivations for good deeds?

Write an argumentative paragraph that claims which approach is best and support your opinions with relevant passages from the text as well as personal experience. Be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Key Paragraph p. 170-171

"Doc ordered fifteen pounds of steaks, ten pounds of tomatoes, twelve heads of lettuce, six loaves of bread, a big jar of peanut butter and one of strawberry jam, five gallons of wine and four quarts of a good substantial but not distinguished whiskey. He knew he would have trouble at the bank the first of the month. Three or four such parties, he thought, and he would lose the laboratory" (p. 170-171).

Writing Prompt

Why does Doc end up buying most of the things for his party? Why doesn't he tell Mack and the boys that he doesn't want the party? What would you do if you were in Doc's position? **Write a paragraph about Doc's motivation for spending so much money on a party for himself. Will this affect the ability of Mack and the boys to repay their debt to Doc? Is Doc going along with the party for the benefit of himself or for the benefit of Mack and the boys? Be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your claims.**

Key Paragraph, p. 189

"The fresh contingent raged in full of hell. And then the party really got going. The cops came back, looked in, clicked their tongues and joined it. Mack and the boys used the squad car to go to Jimmy Brucia's for more wine and Jimmy came back with them. You could hear the roar of the party from the end of Cannery Row. The party had all the best qualities of a riot and a night on the barricades" (p. 189).

Writing Prompt

In this part of the novel, Mack and the boys throw Doc a significantly more successful party than the first one.

Pretend you are Doc. **Write an argumentative letter from his perspective, claiming that this party was much better than the first. Use evidence from the text to support this claim and be sure to use words and phrases that you believe Doc would use. Be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your stance.**

Key Paragraph, p. 196

"Even now,
I know that I have savored the hot taste of life
Lifting green cups and gold at the great feast.
Just for a small and forgotten time
I have had full in my eyes from off my girl
The whitest pouring of eternal light" (p. 196).

Writing Prompt

How is success defined in this novel? Which characters are successful? Which characters are unsuccessful? Do you agree with the standards for success outlined in this novel?

Write a paragraph arguing either for or against the vision of success that is present in the novel. Do you think that this is a valid definition of what makes a person successful? Why or why not? Does success always depend on money? If not, what does success depend on? Use specific examples from the text, but also support your claims with personal opinions. Be sure to reiterate your claims in your conclusion.