

OF MICE AND MEN- JOHN  
STEINBECK

Background Information



# John Steinbeck

- February 27, 1902-  
December 20, 1968
- Decided to be a **writer** at age  
**14**
- Started college at **Stanford  
University** in **1919**, but left  
before earning a degree
- Was married **3** times, and had  
**2** sons





- Wrote **28** novels total
- Most famous works- *Tortilla Flat*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *East of Eden*, and *Of Mice and Men*
- Focused on the life of migrant workers mainly in California, and on the strength and determination of the human spirit
- Received the **Nobel Prize for Literature** in 1962



*"If you're in trouble,  
or hurt or need - go to  
the poor people.  
They're the only ones  
that'll help - the only  
ones."*

*John Steinbeck*



# *Of Mice and Men*

- Published in 1937
- Originally written as a play about the **Great Depression**; it was developed into an actual play soon after the book was published
- Both book and play were huge successes- Steinbeck earned the **Pulitzer Prize in 1939**
- Setting- 1930s during the **Great Depression** (2 locations- a stream close to the **Salinas River**, and a ranch near **Soledad, California**)

