

Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck

- Born in Salinas, California in 1902
- His books deal with the lives and problems of **working people**. Many of the characters in his books are immigrants from Mexico or from other parts of the United States who **went to California looking for work or a better life**.



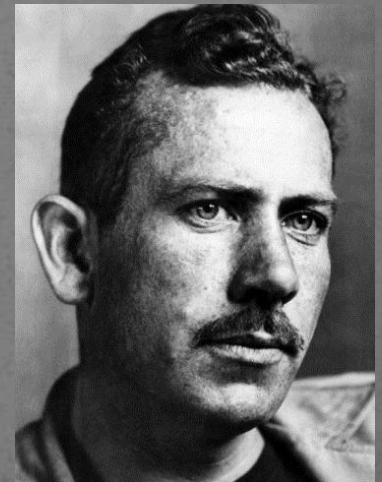
John Steinbeck

- *Of Mice and Men*
 - Published in 1937
 - Set in California in 1930s



John Steinbeck

- *Of Mice and Men* is set in the farmland of the Salinas valley, where John Steinbeck was born and which he knew all his life. Steinbeck's father owned land in the area, and as a young man Steinbeck had worked as a farm hand.
- The ranch in the story is near Soledad, which is southeast of Salinas on the Salinas River. Weed is nearby.



Themes

- The American Dream
- Power vs. Powerlessness
- Nature and Animals
- Gender
- Race

Poem by the Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759-1796)

... But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane
In proving foresight may be vain:
The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
Gang aft agley, [often go wrong]
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain
For promis'd joy.
Still thou art blest, compar'd wi' me!
The present only toucheth thee:
But, och! I backward cast my e'e
On prospects drear!
An' forward, tho' I canna see,
I guess an' fear!