**TOPIC: EULOGIES**

**Discipline**

Language Arts, History

**Grade Level**

7-12

**Type of Activity**

Small Group, Ongoing, Critical Analysis, Writing, Oral Presentation

**Objectives**

* Students will understand what a eulogy is.
* Students will apply eulogy techniques to various aspects of the novel.
* Students will understand how to respectfully, while still having fun, create a eulogy for an animal/human.
* Students will cooperate in a group setting and orally deliver their eulogies.

**Overview**

Eulogies are powerful, and should be taken seriously, even though they may contain some elements of humor. This exercise can provide students with empathy, sympathy, and a greater understanding, during any point of the novel, of the characters and situations surrounding death.

**Materials Needed/Preparation**

* *The Grapes of Wrath*
* Teachers should access the following site and share with students as applicable. <http://dying.about.com/od/funeralsandmemorials/ht/write_a_eulogy.htm>
* Copies of eulogies graphic organizer (optional)

**Estimated Time**

Spend about 1 class period to introduce the concept of the eulogy and the students’ writing of a brief one. The next day, a half period can be devoted to the groups reading their eulogies for the class.

**Procedures**

After explaining what a eulogy is, students can break up into small groups and write a brief one. This can be done in the form of a poem, a rap, or whatever students wish. After completion, they will perform their eulogies for the class. Please remind students, while they are to have fun with this activity, to be sure to maintain a proper respect for the novel. Consider providing the eulogies graphic organizer for students to use in preparing. For *The Grapes of Wrath*, eulogies can be performed for:

* Grampa
* Granma
* Casy
* Tom
* Rosasharn’s baby
* Metaphorically: the death of The American Dream, the breakdown of a vehicle
* For people gone but not dead: Noah, Connie, Muley

**Post Activity/Takeaways/Follow-up**

* Takeaways
* Students can respectfully comment on the eulogies of other groups.
* Follow-up
* A respectful class discussion can follow where members relate their own experiences of the death of a family member or pet.
* Students can write a brief, and confidential, experience about a death of a family member or pet.

**Assessment**

* During the activity, teachers should ensure that students are on task, are being respectful to the novel, and to offer suggestions. Grading the assignment is optional.

**Standards Met**

* Reading Standards for Literature 6-12
* Key Ideas and Details: 1,2
* Craft and Structure: 4,5,6
* Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity: 10
* Reading Standards for Informational Text 6-12
* Key Ideas and Details: 1,2
* Writing Standards 6-12
* Text Types and Purposes: 1,3
* Production and Distribution of Writing: 4,5
* Research to Build and Present Knowledge: 7
* Speaking and Listening Standards 6-12
* Comprehension and Collaboration: 1
* Language Standards 6-12
* Conventions of Standard English: 1,2
* Knowledge of Language: 3
* Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: 4,5,6
* Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies 6-12
* Key Ideas and Details: 1,2
* Craft and Structure: 4,5
* Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects 6-12
* Production and Distribution of Writing: 4,5
* Research to Build and Present Knowledge: 7,8,9

**Eulogies**

A eulogy is a well-crafted speech intended to commemorate a loved one who has died. It is usually presented at a memorial service or funeral by someone who was close to the deceased and knows them well.

Use this graphic organizer to prepare a eulogy for one of the characters in *Of Mice and Men*.

Where is this character from? Where have they lived?

* Hobbies
* Interests
* Skills
* Dreams
* Ambitions

Age? You may have to make a guess here.

Job/work. What did this character do for a living? Describe.

* Accomplishments
* Characteristics

Name of the character.

Family. What family members are still living? Describe them (if possible).