***Of Mice and Men***

**Found Poem Assignment DUE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Steinbeck uses such beautiful diction (word choice) in his novel *Of Mice and Men*. **Your task is to create a found poem of at least 10-12 lines for a theme topic you can identify in the story.**

A **found poem** takes existing text, records it, and then presents them as a poem. Found poetry is the literary equivalent of a collage. The writer of **the found poem does not add any of his/her own new words**, but instead may omit words or phrases from the lines of the text and add/alter the punctuation. The author decides what the form of the poem should be in regards to line breaks and stanzas. It is not enough, in other words, to find an interesting paragraph, add some line breaks and call it a found poem. The found poem should have a meaning and should make the reader think, laugh, second-guess, reflect, and/or otherwise, feel something.

* This is an example of a found poem from *Of Mice and Men*. It shows how to integrate found phrases into your own poetry:

**Crooks**

The negro stable buck,

Bent to the left by his crooked spine,

And nearly crazy with loneliness.

Just like a broken harness

In the process of being mended.

A crippled cripple –

Broken,

Yet glittered with intensity and

Pain-tightened lips.

S’pose you couldn’t go

Into the bunk house

And play rummy

Cause you was black?

How’d you like that?

How’d you like that?

Just cause you was black?

* **Possible themes to consider – loneliness, friendship, helplessness, dreamers**

**Step:**

* **Choose a theme.**
* **Select many words, phrases, and quotes from chapter 3 that identify and support your theme topic. Note details, words and phrases that you find particularly powerful, moving, or interesting.**
* **Create a list of all of your chosen words, phrases, and quotes – you should have a rather large list to pick from in order to create your 10-12 lines of poetry.**
* **Rearrange your chosen words and phrases into a poetic form which communicates your theme.**
* **Organize your lines into stanzas, perhaps adding repeating lines for emphasis.**
* **Give your poem a creative title.**
* **End your poem by typing “Arranged by:” and your name since the words are not your own. On the next line, cite the words in your poem by typing “from Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck**
* **All poems must be typed and have an illustration to accompany it.**
* **PROOFREAD!!!!!!!**

**Keep in mind:**

* The poem does not need to rhyme.
* Poetry is made up of sensory images, so try to find quotes that reflect the senses – sight, sound, taste, touch and smell.
* You can change punctuation and make little changes to the words to make them fit together (such as change the tenses, possessives, plurals, and capitalizations).
* The poem should provide insight to the reader and make them think.

