**John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men***

(first paragraph)

A few miles south of Soledad, the Salinas River drops in close to the hillside bank and runs deep and green. The water is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the yellow sands in the sunlight before reaching the narrow pool. On one side of the river the golden foothill slopes curve up to the strong and rocky Gabilan mountains, but on the valley side the water is lined with trees – willows fresh and green with every spring, carrying in their lower leaf junctures the debris of the winter’s flooding; and sycamores with mottled, white, recumbent limbs and branches that arch over the pool. On the sandy bank under the trees the leaves lie deep and so crisp that a lizard makes a great skittering if he runs among them. Rabbits come out of the brush to sit on the sand in the evening, and the damp flats are covered with the night tracks of ‘coons, and with the spread pad of dogs from the ranches, and with the split-wedge tracks of deer that come to drink in the dark.

**Directions:**

* Highlight unfamiliar words. Look them up and define them on the back of this paper.
* Once you completely understand the passage, illustrate the “picture” that Steinbeck “paints” with his words.
* You must use a great deal of color and must color in the entire page of paper.
* Put your name, date, and period on the back of your illustration and staple this paper to the front.
* Assignments are due on Monday, January 28. You will be given class time on Friday, January 25 to work on them.

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