

Sample Literary Analysis Essay Outline

HIT → TEAL → BAM

Introduction: H-I-T

H (hook)	Thought-provoking question: Is dreaming worthwhile? Some people say yes, others no
I (introductory information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● George and Lennie are migrant workers● Dream of having their own farm● Dream seems like it might become a reality, but then it cannot come true due to tragedy
T (thesis statement)	Ultimately, John Steinbeck's novella suggests that dreams give people false hope through George's unrealistic promises, Lennie's obsessive belief in the farm, and Candy's desperate investment.

Body Paragraph 1: T-E-A-L* (proves first supporting reason in your thesis statement)

Topic sentence	Firstly, false hope in dreams can be seen in the novella through George's unrealistic promise that someday George and Lennie will own their own farm.
Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Context:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ George and Lennie want to buy a farm○ They have very little money as migrant workers● Quotation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "Well—I could get it for six hundred bucks. The ol' people that owns it is flat bust an' the of lady needs an operation" (59)○ "We got ten bucks between us" (59)
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Zoom In:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Saving \$600 is nearly impossible to save as migrant workers in the 1930s● Zoom Out:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Saving that amount of money and getting the farm is unrealistic and creates false hope
Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Context:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ George admits to Candy that the dream of the farm was unrealistic all along● Quotation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "I think I knowed from the very first I think I knowed we'd never do her. He usta like to hear about it so much I got to thinking maybe we would" (94)

Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom In: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ George admits that deep down that he knew the dream was unrealistic ● Zoom Out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ George knows his promise is unrealistic ○ Yet, still gets Lennie and Candy's hopes up
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Body Paragraph 2: T-E-A-L* (proves second supporting reason in your thesis statement)

Topic sentence:	Lennie obsessively believes that the dream of the farm will come true.
Evidence:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 1 ○ George is furious at Lennie's forgetfulness ● Quotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "I remember about the rabbits, George.' 'The hell with the rabbits. That's all you ever can remember is them rabbits. O.K! Now you listen and this time you got to remember so we don't get into no trouble" (4-5)
Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom In: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "The hell with" expresses George's frustration ○ "This time" implies Lennie has gotten in trouble before ● Zoom Out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lennie is obsessed with the future farm ○ False promise of the farm means he can't focus on the here and now
Evidence:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lennie kills Curley's wife ○ Worried he won't get to tend the rabbits ● Quotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "George gonna say I done a bad thing. He ain't gonna let me tend no rabbits" (91)
Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom In: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Bad thing" is Curley's wife's death ○ More worried about getting in trouble and not being able to tend the rabbits than the fact that a woman is dead ● Zoom Out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Obsession over the false hope of the farm/rabbits prevents Lennie from focusing on his current reality

Body Paragraph 3: T-E-A-L* (proves third supporting reason in your thesis statement)

Topic sentence	Finally, Steinbeck suggests in the novella that dreams give people false hope through Candy's desperate investment.
Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candy overhears George and Lennie talking about their dream of their own farm ○ Candy joins their conversation, eager to see if he can join them ● Quotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "S'pose I went in with you guys. Tha's three hunderd an' fifty bucks I'd put in," continuing with, "They'll can me purty soon. Jus' as soon as I can't swamp out no bunk houses they'll put me on the county" (59-60)
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom In: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candy immediately offers up his life's savings ○ Land in the 1930s could be purchased for a few hundred dollars ○ "Canned" means fired ○ Candy worried about his future ● Zoom Out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candy is so desperate that he instantly believes in the false promise of the farm
Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lennie has just been killed ○ Candy still wants to hold on to the false promise of the farm ● Quotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "You an' me can get that little place, can't we, George? You an' me can go there an' live nice, can't we, George? Can't we?" (94)
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom In: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repetition of "can't we" shows Candy's desperation to keep the dream of the farm alive ● Zoom Out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The false hope makes Candy still believe that he and George can purchase the farm

Conclusion: B-A-M

B (refer back to thesis)	All in all, Steinbeck suggests that dreams give people false hope that makes characters in the novel act unrealistically, obsessively, and desperately.
A (analyze its significance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● George is unrealistic with his promise● Lennie is obsessed with the dream coming true, which distracts him from reality● Candy is desperate to be a part of the farm● The dream gives these characters something to look forward to, but also false hope
M (make it universal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● If people are going to dream big, they need to be aware that there might be bitter disappointment if the dream does not come true

***L** is for a **L**inking sentence that bridges evidence in the paragraph/**L**ast sentence of the paragraph that restates the topic sentence. It doesn't need to be included in the outline, but should be included when writing the essay!