



Name: _____ Date: _____

Of Mice and Men & The Central Park Five

Selecting Strong Textual Evidence

Weak Versus Strong Textual Evidence Chart			
	Supports the Claim	Quality	Length
Weak Textual Evidence 	The evidence is unrelated to the topic sentence. The evidence does not support the claim and reasons.	Evidence is surface-level, focused on what happened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fact • A plot point • Established information • Logistical information • Literal information 	4+ sentences or 4+ lines of dialogue
Strong Textual Evidence 	The evidence supports the claim and reasons in the topic sentence.	Evidence is juicy, meaning the writer can break down at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diction (definition or connotation) • Figurative language • Literary device • Author's style 	About 1–3 sentences or 1–4 lines of dialogue

Directions: Discuss each quotation to determine if it meets the criteria for strong textual evidence:

- Does the quotation support the claim in the topic sentence?
- Is the claim "juicy"?
- Does the quotation meet the length requirement?

Topic Sentence: In John Steinbeck's novella, *Of Mice and Men*, the greatest threat to George and Lennie at the ranch is Lennie himself due to his love of soft things and his extreme strength.

1. "Aw, leave me have it, George!"

'Give it here!' Lennie's closed hand slowly obeyed . . ." (Steinbeck 5–6)

Does the quotation meet the criteria for strong textual evidence?

2. "I wish't we'd get the rabbits pretty soon, George. They ain't so little." (10)

Does the quotation meet the criteria for strong textual evidence?

3. "Lennie still stared at the doorway where she had been. 'Gosh, she was purty.' He smiled admiringly. George looked quickly down at him, and then he took him by an ear and shook him." (32)

Does the quotation meet the criteria for strong textual evidence?

4. "George scoffed. 'Lady, huh? Don't even remember who that lady was. That was your own Aunt Clara. An' she stopped givin' 'em to ya. You always killed 'em.'

Lennie looked sadly up at him. 'They was so little,' he said, apologetically. 'I'd pet 'em, and pretty soon they bit my fingers and I pinched their heads a little and then they was dead—because they was so little.' (9–10)

Does the quotation meet the criteria for strong textual evidence?