8A Language Arts Themes in Of Mice and Men:

**Friendship:** A theme in Of Mice and Men is friendship because all throughout the story George and Lennie stick together to the point that they are almost inseparable. When one has too much of one trait, and the other doesn’t have enough of the same trait, they even each other out. Their friendship is unique and abnormal, but their dreams keep them together. They’re not the only two that display friendship throughout the book. Though only in the beginning, Candy is shown to love his dog and connect because of their age. Friendship is also shown in the beginning, and breaks boundaries, when Lennie befriends Crooks despite the racial stereotypes of the time.

**Loneliness:** Loneliness is portrayed in the book by many characters. It is portrayed very well by Candy when his dog died and lost his best and only friend. Crooks was symbolizing loneliness almost because he is a person of color and they were not treated fairly during the time. Lennie was lonely because George tells him not to talk to everyone, so he does not get into trouble. Curley’s wife was not allowed to talk to anyone because Curley was way too protective.

**Violence:** In Of Mice and Men, the theme of violence is exemplified in many ways. Throughout the book, Lennie kills several mice, a puppy and Curley’s wife, as well as crushing Curley’s hand. The characters even kill a full grown dog! This theme plays the role of characterizing Lennie as not knowing his own strength, or that he is a violent person. Many people do not know how to not hurt other, especially those with disabilities, without this element the story there would be complete characters.

**Dreams:** Lots of the characters on the ranch had dreams about owning their own land. Candy had a dream, along with Lennie and George, to own their own farm, have rabbits, cows, and pigs. This dream helps the men continue with the tough job of working on the ranch.

**Isolation**: All the characters are isolated from the rest of society. Crooks is isolated from everyone else on the farm. Curley’s wife is isolated totally off of the farm and does not like being on the farm. Lennie always feels isolated because he makes mistakes and he is different from everyone else.

**Nature**: One example of Nature is Lennie and George connecting to nature in chapter 1. In chapter 1 they are camping at the lake, eating canned beans, and enjoying a fire. Lennie connects to nature more than all the other characters combined. Lennie loves to pet the soft and smooth fur of the nice, dogs and other furry animals. The “guys” love living in the country so much that they only went into town once in the entire book. Lennie is the one character that references nature the most. Candy probably enjoys nature because sometimes he needs a break from the “guys.”

**Responsibility**: