

## Short Constructed Response: An *Of Mice and Men* Example

The following grid is designed to give you an idea of how an examiner would assess your short constructed responses.

Prompt: Explain how Steinbeck uses nature to exemplify another theme in the novel *Of Mice and Men*. Be sure to use quotes from the book as well as references to specific methods the author uses to support your response.

EXAMPLE WRITING	DESCRIPTION OF SKILLS USED	SCORE
Steinbeck writes about nature.	You make a statement or remark commenting on an aspect of the text. It somewhat connects to the prompt, but is not fully developed.	0-1
Steinbeck writes about nature. He uses metaphors.	You pinpointed or spotted a device/method the author uses, but there are no details given. The answer is still not fully developed.	1
Steinbeck writes about nature. He uses metaphors to show that Lennie is like an animal.	You back up your statement above with some evidence or detail, but there are still no specific references to the text and your methods identified are not clearly referenced.	1.5
Steinbeck writes about nature. He uses metaphors to show that Lennie is like an animal. This shows that Lennie can be dangerous.	You organize your points so that they answer the question, but there are still minimal supporting details.	2
Steinbeck writes about nature. He uses a metaphor to show that Lennie is like an animal when Curley "stood crying, his fist lost in Lennie's paw". This shows the Lennie can be dangerous.	You are on the right track. You give specific details to make your point clear, using a quote from the text to support your response. You are still missing reference to a second theme, however, as well as making specific references to the methods the author uses.	2.5
In his novel <i>Of Mice and Men</i> , Steinbeck writes about nature. He uses a metaphor to show that Lennie is like an animal when Curley "stood crying, his fist lost in Lennie's paw...". This shows that Lennie is dangerous and can perhaps be unpredictable when, moments before, he had been "smiling with delight at the memory of the ranch."	You investigate and look at points in detail. You also have identified the novel and author clearly in your first sentences so an uninformed audience knows exactly what you're referencing. You hint at the second theme of violence, but you haven't clearly stated it as such.	3

<p>In his novel, <u>Of Mice and Men</u>, Steinbeck writes about nature. He uses a metaphor as a method of showing that Lennie is like an animal when Curley “stood crying, his fist lost in Lennie’s paw...”. This shows that Lennie is dangerous and can perhaps be unpredictable when, moments before, he had been “smiling with delight at the memory of the ranch.” Steinbeck describes Lennie in this way to subtly suggest that he, like an animal, reacts instinctively to the immediate situation.</p>	<p>Here you delve deeper into the author’s methods, examining and analyzing them. Your word choice and transitions are strong. You’ve used two appropriate quotes to support your argument. Almost there...</p>	<p>3.5</p>
<p>In his novel, <u>Of Mice and Men</u>, Steinbeck writes about nature. He uses a metaphor as a method of showing that Lennie is like an animal when Curley, “stood crying, his fist lost in Lennie’s paw...”. This shows that Lennie is dangerous and can perhaps be unpredictable when, moments before, he had been “smiling with delight at the memory of the ranch.” Steinbeck describes Lennie in this way to subtly suggest that he, like an animal, reacts instinctively to the immediate situation.</p>	<p>You got it! You identified a method the author used (using metaphors) to look not just at the theme of nature, but the theme of violence. You used quotes from the book to create your own judgments and invent your own way of analyzing this novel. You weave in evidence and interpret it. Your word choice and sentence structure are all strong and you’ve included appropriate punctuation and transitions throughout the paragraph.</p>	<p>4</p>