Of Mice and Men, is a fictional novella by author John Steinbeck. Of Mice and men tells the story of two moving workers named Lennie and George, during the height of the Great Depression. Lennie is challenged mentally, and has been wrongly accused of rape for touching a lady, and so the two are looking for work elsewhere. Lennie and George have a sorted relationship. George has to care for Lennie and look out for him due to his mental disability, and at times he seems resentful of this. Lennie on the other hand, is incredibly simple minded and Nieve. Their relationship is key to the theme of the novella, which is to never turn your back on a friend.

I love both the characters of George and Lennie. It is impossible not to feel sorry for both of them, but particularly George as he has to deal with the brunt of Lennie's innocent, but unacceptable actions. I find the character of Lennie to be most interesting. He is an incredibly strong yet notably gentle man. He is the definition of a gentle giant, and just as misunderstood.

The authors style is quite beautiful, and euphonious. His choice of words tend to be simple and descriptive, with the purpose of conveying an image. There is a healthy mix
of monosyllabic and polysyllabic word use, as one would find in any common sentence.

It is quite informal, with use of abbreviations and slang terms such as 'coons for raccoons. The writing is very concrete, and for the most part denotative. An example of the euphonious and descriptive writing is as follows. "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" we clearly see the use of such words as warm, slipping, twinkling and golden as very imagery oriented words. They paint a beautiful picture in the mind, and sound lovely. There is some irony in the beauty of the writing, as it takes place during the Depression, which was not a time of prosperity of beauty for the United States.

The setting of this book is very important. 1930s America and the height of the depression was not a particularly scenic time. Men were out of work, out of home and
desperate. The time also helps us understand the treatment of Lennie, how people were not as understanding of his disability as they might be in modern day America.

The culture was notably different as well. The American dream is something everyone wanted, but what this shows is that is was not obtainable for everyone, and required incredible amounts of work. Women's roll in society is also addressed, with the character of The ranch owners wife. The culture seemed to be against the imperfect.

The ranch owners wife, takes joy in making Lennie feel stupid, reminding cooks he is black and making fun of the old and lame. It would seem culture prized only the young, strong and competent.

It is worth reading, because unlike many books we read in this class, it is captivating from the beginning, and short enough to hold your attention. The author is too the point, without overusing flowery language or going on longer the necessary. The characters are lovable and dynamic and you can't help but feel for them and their situation.

Though I have yet to finish, or get near finishing it, I can tell its going to be a good read.