



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Only What You Can Take There and Back Again ... A Problematic Situation for *Of Mice and Men*

**Directions:** You have just entered a time machine and traveled back in time to be a migrant worker in California during the 1930's. It is right in the middle of the Depression and you have a hand-to-mouth existence. You are always on the run and therefore have not accumulated very many belongings. In fact, you cannot afford to own anything that you cannot carry in your bindle on your back. Your assignment is to narrow down your list of possessions. You need to rank them in order from most important (1) to least important (22). Keep in mind the technological restraints you might have (as you can only have access to the kinds of things that were available during that time – so you may put your video game equipment on your list, but it might not do you a lot of good if you cannot play it). If you get stuck, start with the things least important to you and work backwards. After you have your list prioritized, put an asterisk (\*) next to as many things as you think you can handle on your back. And remember, it will get heavy, so be choosy.

Rank your items here 1-22	Put an * here if you can carry it	The Items You Must Choose From
		pictures of your family and friends
		keys to your car
		a can opener
		a case of Snickers <b>or</b> Butterfingers candy bars
		a phonograph machine
		a sacred religious book
		a bathing suit
		an X-Box and your favorite game

Rank your items here 1-25	Put an * here if you can carry it	The Items You Must Choose From
		your most comfortable pair of shoes
		a warm blanket or sleeping bag
		a canteen
		your journal
		your television set <b>or</b> computer
		your favorite book
		6 cans of beans and ketchup
		an extra pair of clothes
		a pan that can cook food over an open flame
		medicines and ointments
		your favorite and most comfortable pillow
		your compact disc collection
		microwave popcorn
		matches