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Rough Draft

Throughout my life, I have read very few books. And If I did read it, It had to be because of school. When asked if I had any takeaways from a book I have read before, I sat and thought very hard. Out of all the books that I have read I found *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck is by far the most relatable to me. In this book there are two workers, named George and Lennie, George is a small,mean man and Lennie is a friendly, giant man with a disability. Throughout the entire book, Lennie depended on George for protection and guidance. George is responsible for Lennie, kind of playing a big brother role to him. For example, George made sure that Lennie always had work, and food to eat, and made sure he stayed out of trouble. When they are without each other they are useless but when they are with each other they are strong and more successful. What I learned from this book is that it is okay to need someone and be open to different people that are completely different from you. When being open up to new people, better sides of you come out. George started off as an angry drunk who thought he didn't need anyone, to being bored and sad without Lennie. I think that the author was trying to show readers the strength that comes when people unite and how powerful it is. Lennie and George started as randoms and formed a friendship, which led them to become a family.

The one thing that stood out to me the most was the friendship the two main characters, Lennie and George, had with each other. Although they were so different they needed each other.

And that part just amazed me. Seeing that allowed me to be more open with different people. This brings me to my takeaway from the novel.

My takeaway from this book was that friends come in different shapes, meaning do not judge a book by its cover. People tend to judge each other and make that mistake a lot. When I moved and switched High Schools I ended up meeting my friend Dylan, who to this day is my best friend. I and Dylan only shared two things in common which were our love for basketball, and that we were boys trying to be men. Because of this book, I decided to say something to Dylan which caused us to become friends. I am forever thankful for our friendship. When I transferred schools for the second time it was almost like he had come with me. He has been a shoulder I can cry on, a person I can celebrate wins with and so much more. Dylan is now more than a friend and is definitely someone I call family. He knows the family and my whole family knows him. He has been there for me helping me celebrate all the good and he has been there for me to harp on the bad. Like George and Lennie, Dylan and I had nothing in common but together we made each other better in every aspect.

In conclusion, the friendship between George and Lennie from *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck is the reason I am friends with my best friend now. The Novel has inspired me to be more open which caused me to meet not only my friend but a brother. Different books have different meanings and lessons that'll influence readers in many ways. There is knowledge in books that I gained from reading *Of Mice and Men*. So when asked if I have ever had a takeaway from a book I have read before, I can honestly say I have thanks to John Steinbeck.