Of Mice and Men/Awake and Sing

Lesson #1

Materials Needed:

- Copies of Play Synopsis
- Copies of "Brother Can You Spare A Dime" lyrics
- Smart Board or LCD Projector (w/computer hookup)
- CD player
- Power Point CD from resource kit
- CD from resource kit
- Copies of Depression Era Price List
- Large post-it paper
- Markers

AIM: How do economic hardships affect the dignity of individuals and society as a whole?

***Teacher Note**: These lessons are an extension into the Great Depression era. The students should already have an introduction of this time period.

Do Now: Depression Era Song Analysis:

1. Distribute copies of the song lyrics to "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"
2. Play CD from resource kit.
3. Ask students to listen to and read along while the song is played.
4. In pairs or groups, ask them to briefly discuss what they think the lyrics refer to.

Main Activity:

1. Show the CD (computer) from the resource kit Power Point: Essay on Great Depression
    a. Play the CD of the song one more time.
    b. Stop the power point presentation when song is finished.
2. Review and discuss the lyrics to the song.
    a. What does it describe life as being like?
    b. What does the singer desire?
    c. How was the song describing how life was like before?
    d. Did seeing the photo montage with the song change their opinions from when they just heard the audio and the lyrics?
    e. This was a popular song during the depression.
        i. Why?
        ii. Do the students feel this reflects the general feelings of the "common man"?
3. Hand out copies of the Play Synopsis.
    a. Read aloud or choose student volunteers (depending on your class).
4. Discuss that the two plays center around the Great Depression era.
    a. *Of Mice and Men* looks at the rural landscape.
    b. *Awake and Sing* looks at urban/city life.
    c. Tell the students they will be looking at the Great Depression era through some

selected scenes from the two plays.

5. Create a Venn diagram on post-it paper.
    a. Compare and contrast what the students know of the Great Depression and today's ailing economy.
    b. Save this as you may need to come back to the information at a later time.

Homework:

1. Hand out the Depression Era price list.
    a. Have the students answer the following:
        i. What could a dime have bought someone during the depression?
        ii. What does that mean about the daily difficulties people faced during the depression?
        iii. Imagine you live during this time period.
            1. You have a job and are making $5 dollars a week.
                a. What can your family afford?
                b. Create a "budget" list.
                c. What does your family have to go without?
        iv. Compare your budget list items to today's prices.
2. Research the meaning of the phrase "The American Dream."
    a. Consider what happened to it during the Great Depression.

PLOT SUMMARIES
1930s Unit

Of Mice and Men
By John Steinbeck

Two migrant field workers in California's Salinas Valley during the Great Depression — George Milton, an intelligent and cynical man, and Lennie Small, an ironically-named man of large stature and immense strength but limited mental abilities—come to a ranch near Soledad southeast of Salinas, California to "work up a stake." They hope to one day attain their shared dream of settling down on their own piece of land. Lennie's part of the dream, which he never tires of hearing George describe, is merely to tend to (and touch) soft rabbits on the farm. George protects Lennie at the beginning by telling him that if Lennie gets into trouble George won't let him "tend them rabbits." They are fleeing from their previous employment where they were run out of town after Lennie's love of stroking soft things resulted in an accusation of attempted rape when he touched a young woman's dress.

At the ranch, the dream appears to move closer to reality. Candy, the aged, one-handed ranch-hand, even offers to pitch in with Lennie and George so they can buy the farm by the end of the month. The dream crashes when Lennie accidentally kills the young and attractive wife of Curley, the ranch owner's son, while trying to stroke her hair. A lynch mob led by Curley gathers. George, realizing he is doomed to a life of loneliness and despair like the rest of the migrant workers and wanting to spare Lennie a painful death at the hands of the vengeful and violent Curley, shoots Lennie in the back of the head before the mob can find him after they had recited their dreams of owning their own land.

Awake and Sing
By Clifford Odets

The Bergers, a lower-middle-class Jewish family in the Bronx in the 1930s, are in desperate shape, financially and psychologically. The head of the household, Bessie, acts as both mother and father, as she herself states; the father, Myron is likeable but weak, a born follower; their unmarried daughter, Hennie, is pregnant with an unwanted child. The Berger son, Ralph, struggles amidst this poverty and dysfunction to discover himself and make his way in the world. His ally in this quest is his grandfather, Jacob, who finds consolation in philosophy. His Uncle Morty, Bessie's brother, represents an alternative path; he has made himself into a successful businessman, but there are suggestions that he has done so by exploiting his workers. Seeing only one way out for Ralph, Jacob quietly makes him the beneficiary of his $3,000 life insurance policy, then "accidentally" falls from the roof of their tenement. His death allows Hennie to run away with Moe Axelrod a crippled war veteran who offers her financial security (even though the source of his income is somewhat shady). It also liberates Ralph: "Did Jake die for us to fight for nickels? No! 'Awake and sing,' he said . . . I saw he was dead and I was born!" Ralph departs – despite his mother's anger at what she feels to be his abandonment and irresponsibility – resolved to become a political activist (today we might call him a community organizer), helping workers in their struggle for a better life.

"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime,"
Lyrics by Yip Harburg, music by Jay Gorney (1931)

They used to tell me I was building a dream, and so I followed the mob,
When there was earth to plow, or guns to bear, I was always there right on the job.
They used to tell me I was building a dream, with peace and glory ahead,
Why should I be standing in line, just waiting for bread?
Once I built a railroad, I made it run, made it race against time.
Once I built a railroad; now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?
Once I built a tower, up to the sun, brick, and rivet, and lime;
Once I built a tower, now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?
Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,
Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,
And I was the kid with the drum!
Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.
Why don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?
Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,
Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,
And I was the kid with the drum!
Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.
Say, don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?

1932 - 1933 Price List

Mooresville, Indiana

Food

Product	Brand Name	Sold in Units of	Price per Unit
Apples	Jonathans/Baldwins	3 lbs.	$0.10
Apples	Jonathan/Cooking	5 lbs.	$0.19
Apple butter		1 lb. jar	$0.10
Applesauce		2 No. 2 cans	$0.19
Bacon	Slab	1 lb.	$0.13
Bacon	Sliced	1/2 lb.	$0.19
Baking Powder	Crystal Brand	1 lb.	$0.05
Bananas		1 lb.	$0.15
Beans	Country Club With Pork	4 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Beets	Avondale	3 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Bran Flakes	Kellogg	25 oz.	$0.10
Bread	Grandmother's Quality	1 lb. loaf	$0.05
Bread, Sliced		1 lb. Loaf	$0.08
Brown Sugar		1 lb.	$0.05
Butter		1 lb.	$0.24
Cabbage	New Texas	1 lb.	$0.10
Cabbage		3 lb	$0.10
Candy Bar	Milky Way	3 bars	$0.10
Carrots	New Texas	2 bunches	$0.15
Cauliflower		1 head	$0.23

Celery	Medium Sized	2 stalks	$0.15
Cheese		1 lb.	$0.19
Cherries	Pitted	2 No. 2 cans	$0.29
Chili	Country Club Con Carne	2 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Chuck Roast		1 lb.	$0.10
Chuck Roast	Prime cut	1 lb.	$0.13
Coffee	Maxwell House	1lb.	$0.32
Coffee	8 O'clock	1 lb.	$0.19
Coffee	Del Monte	1 lb.	$0.30
Coffee	Bokar	1 lb.	$0.27
Corn	Standard Pack	1 No. 2 can	$0.05
Corn	Del Monte	3 No. 2 cans	$0.29
Corn	Butter Kernel	2 No. 2 cans	$0.29
Corn	Country Club Fancy	2 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Corn Meal		5 lbs.	$0.10
Cranberries	Eatmore	2 lbs.	$0.25
Cream Cheese	Wisconsin Fresh	1 lb.	$0.15
Eggs		1 dozen	$0.15
Fish		1 lb.	$0.19
Flour	Gold Medal	24 lb. Sack	$0.63
Flour	Sunnyfield Pancake	20 ounce package	$0.05
Frankfurters		1 lb.	$0.10
Frankfurters	All Meat	1 lb.	$0.13
Ginger Snaps		3 lbs.	$0.25
Grapefruit	Florida	6 grapefruit	$0.25
Grapefruit	Texas Fancy Seedless	6 grapefruit	$0.25

Green Beans	Clifton	2 No. 2 cans	$0.15
Green Onions		3 bunches	$0.10
Ham		1 lb.	$0.08
Ham	Fresh Delivered	1 lb.	$0.15
Hamburger		1 lb.	$0.10
Hamburger	Fresh Delivered	1 lb.	$0.15
Hominy	Avondale	2 No. 2 cans	$0.15
Jell-O		3 packages	$0.20
Ketchup	Quaker Maid	3 - 14 ounce bottles	$0.29
Kool-Aid	Kool-Aid, various flavors	1 package	$0.05
Kraut	Avondale	2 big cans	$0.15
Lemons		1 dozen	$0.15
Lettuce	Fancy Iceberg	2 heads	$0.19
Lettuce	Large	1 head	$0.10
Lima Beans	Clifton	3 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Macaroni		6 - 8 ounce pkgs	$0.25
Milk, Evaporated	White House	3 tall cans	$0.20
Milk, Regular		1 quart bottle	$0.25
Navy Beans		10 lbs.	$0.24
Navy Beans	Best Quality	10 lbs.	$0.29
Oats	Quick Cook	2 large pkgs	$0.25
Oats	Economy	3.5 lbs.	$0.10
Oleo		1 lb.	$0.10
Onions, Yellow		3 lbs	$0.17
Oranges	Sunkist California	1 dozen	$0.29
Oranges	Juicy Florida	2 dozen	$0.29

Oranges	Florida	1 dozen	$0.15
Oysters		1 quart	$0.45
Oysters		1 can	$0.15
Peaches	Del Monte	3 No. 2 cans	$0.50
Peanut Brittle		1 lb.	$0.15
Peanut Butter		2 lbs.	$0.15
Peanut Butter	Sultana	1 lb. Glass jar	$0.10
Peas	Country Club	1 No. 2 can	$0.15
Peas	Standard Pack	3 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Pineapple	Country Club Sliced	2 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Pineapple	Large	1 pineapple	$0.19
Pork Chops		1 lb.	$0.08
Pork Chops	Fresh Delivered	1lb.	$0.15
Potatoes		15 lbs.	$0.15
Preserves	Ann Page Strawberry	16 ounce jar	$0.15
Prunes	Kroger's Delicious	6 lbs.	$0.25
Pumpkin	Country Club	2 big cans	$0.15
Red Beans	Scott County	3 No. 2 cans	$0.20
Red Beans		1 No. 2 can	$0.05
Rice		5lbs.	$0.15
Rice	Blue Rose Fancy	5 lbs.	$0.19
Roast Beef		1 lbs.	$0.10
Roast Beef	Fresh Delivered	1 lb.	$0.15
Salad Dressing	Rajah	1 quart jar	$0.25
Salmon	Alaska Pink	2 tall cans	$0.25
Salt	Granulated	1 lb.	$0.73
Sausage		3 lbs.	$0.20

Sausage	Fresh Delivered	3 lb.	$0.25
Soap	Proctor & Gamble	10 bars	$0.32
Soap	P & G White Naphtha	8 bars	$0.25
Soap	Super Suds	3 packages	$0.20
Soap	Palmolive	3 cakes	$0.20
Soup, Tomato	Campbell's	3 cans	$0.19
Spaghetti		6 - 8 ounce pkgs	$0.25
Spaghetti	Encore Cooked	4 cans	$0.25
Spinach	Country Club	2 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Spinach	Fresh	1 lb.	$0.05
Spinach	New Texas	1 lb.	$0.05
Steak, Loin/Round		1 lb.	$0.20
Steak, Loin/Round	Fresh Delivered	1 lb.	$0.25
Strawberries		1 box	$0.19
Sugar		10 lb. Cloth sack	$0.47
Sugar	Godchaux Cane	25 lb. Bag	$1.23
Sweet Potatoes	Avondale	2 No. 2 cans	$0.25
Swiss Steak		1 lb.	$0.19
Tea	Bon Marie Herbal	1 package	$1.00
Tomatoes	Standard Pack	4 tomatoes	$0.25
Turnips		2 lbs.	$0.05
Turnips		4 lb.	$0.10
Vanilla Extract	Imitation	2 - 3 ounce bottles	$0.15

Cars & Accessories

Product	Brand Name	Sold in Units of	Price per Unit
Cabriolet	Chevrolet	1 new car	$16.08/month
Coach	Chevrolet	1 new car	$14.66/month
Coupe	Chevrolet	1 new car	$14.09/month
Engine, 4-cylinder	Factory rebuilt	1 engine	$37.50
Engine, V-8	Factory rebuilt	1 engine	$40.00
Gasoline		1 Gallon	$0.15
Heater, Installed	Otwell	1 car heater	$6.95
Lubrication	Complete	1 lubrication	$0.75
Lubrication	Complete	12 lubrications	$5.00
Model-T, 1923	Ford	1 used car	$275.00
Motor Oil		1 quart	$0.15
Motor Oil		1 gallon	$0.50
Phaeton	Chevrolet	1 new car	$14.66/month
Pickup, Half-ton	Ford	1 new pickup	$12.52/month
Sedan	Chevrolet	1 new car	$16.08/month
Six	Chevrolet	1 new car	$13.52/month
Sport Coupe	Chevrolet	1 new car	$15.23/month
Sport Roadster	Chevrolet	1 new car	$13.80/month
Super-Six	Essex	1 new car	$22.06/month
Tires	Goodyear All-weather	Set of 4	$6.35
Tune-Up	Complete	1 tune-up	$4.95
V-8 Sedan	Ford	1 new car	$17.36/month

Wash & Grease		1 wash & 1 grease	$1.50
Water Heater	Hadees	1 water heater	$9.95

Entertainment

Product	Brand Name	Sold in Units of	Price per Unit
Basketball	Mooresville H. S.	1 child admission	$0.15
Basketball	Mooresville H. S.	1 adult admission	$0.25
Basketball	Mooresville H. S.	1 child season pass	$0.75
Basketball	Mooresville H. S.	1 adult season pass	$1.50
Circus, Traveling	In Mooresville	1 admission	$0.25
Dancing Lessons	Private	1 couple lesson	$1.00
Dancing Lessons	Private	1 single lesson	$0.75
Dancing Lessons	Class	1 couple lesson	$0.50
Dancing Lessons	Class	1 single lesson	$0.35
Music Lessons	Private	1 lesson	$0.50
Swimming Pool	Mooresville	1 admission	$0.10
Theatre	Ritz In Mooresville	1 admission	$0.10
Theatre	Prewitt In Plainfield	1 child admission	$0.10
Theatre	Prewitt In Plainfield	1 adult admission	$0.25

Clothes & Accessories

Product	Brand Name	Sold in Units of	Price per Unit
Bathrobe	Ladies	1 robe	$4.90
Belt	Men's	1 belt	$1.00
Boots	Men's	1 pair	$2.98
Coloring, Hair		1 coloring	$0.25
Dress	Ladies'	1 dress	$1.00
Facial	Plain	1 facial	$0.25
Galoshes	Ladies'	1 pair	$1.69
Gown	Ladies' Flannel	1 gown	$0.75
Haircut		1 haircut	$0.25
Hose	Ladies' Rayon	1 pair	$0.50
Hose	Ladies' Rayon	3 pair	$1.00
Hose	Ladies' Silk	1 pair	$1.50
Jacket	Men's/Boy's	1 jacket	$1.98
Manicure		1 manicure	$0.25
Overalls	Men's	1 pair	$1.50
Overcoat	Men's	1 coat	$18.50
Permanent		1 permanent	$3.00
Shampoo		1 shampoo	$0.25
Shirt	Men's Work	1 shirt	$0.65
Shirt	Men's Dress	1 shirt	$1.00
Shoes	Ladies'	1 pair	$3.50
Socks	Boy's/Girl's	1 pair	$0.50
Socks	Men's/Ladies'	1 pair	$0.75

Sweater, wool	Ladies'/girl's	1 sweater	$1.00
Tie	Men's	1 tie	$1.00

Furniture & Appliances

Product	Brand Name	Sold in Units of	Price per Unit
Bed & Springs	Used	1 bed	$3.25
Broom	House	1 broom	$0.29
Chair	Steamer	1 chair	$0.95
Chair	Deck	1 chair	$1.45
Chair	Lawn	1 chair	$0.95
Curling Iron	Electric	1 curling iron	$1.10
Dishes	G.E. 16-piece set	1 set	$0.89
Dresser	Arvin Used	1 dresser	$3.50
Fan	Electric	1 fan	$5.00
Heater	American Beauty Electric	1 heater	$7.75
Heating Pad	NU-TYPE Electric	1 heating pad	$3.50
Iron	Electric	1 iron	$8.95
Lamp	Aladdin Mantle	1 lamp	$2.98
Lamp	Boudoir	1 lamp	$0.35
Lamp	Table	1 lamp	$0.75
Light Bulbs	"15,25,40,50,60 Watt"	3 light bulbs	$0.25
Percolators	Electric	1 percolator	$3.50
Radio	G.E. Compact	1 radio	$69.50
Razor	Electric	1 razor	$2.95
Refrigerator		1 refrigerator	$99.50

Rocker	Large Solid Oak	1 rocker	$7.50
Rug Brooder	Used	1 rug	$8.50
Screen Door		1 door	$0.98
Sewing Machine	Singer	1 sewing machine	$23.95
Stove	Monarch	1 stove	$7.95
Stove	3-Burner Oil	1 stove	$15
Stove	G.E. Electric	1 stove	$124.50
Toaster	Hot Point Electric	1 toaster	$2.50
Vacuum Cleaner	Maytag Electric	1 vacuum	$30
Waffle Iron	Electric	1 waffle iron	$6.50
Washer	Electric	1 washer	$59.50
Washer	Automatic	1 washer	$67.50

Miscellaneous

Product	Brand Name	Sold in Units of	Price per Unit
Diet Pills	Ju-Van	20 capsules	$1.00
Doll		1 doll	$1.95
Evergreen	3-4 ft.	1 tree	$1.49
Frying Pan		1 pan	$1.75
Hose, Garden		50 foot hose	$2.25
Matches	Kitchen	6 boxes	$0.20
Milk of Magnesia		1 bottle	$0.57
Polish, Cedar Oil		1 bottle	$0.10
Postage Stamp	U.S. ground postage	1 stamp	$0.03

Postcard	U.S. postcard w/ postage	1 postcard	$0.01
Sled, Snow		1 sled	$6.95
Toothbrush	West's	1 toothbrush	$0.50
Toothpaste	West's	1 bottle	$0.25

Housing

Dwelling	Type	Cost
Tenement Building	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	$12.00/month rent
Apartment Building	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	$19.00/month rent
House, Bungalow	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	$35.00/month mortgage
House, Two-Story	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	$45.00/month mortgage

* All of these prices were taken from issues of the Mooresville (Indiana) Times, 1932-1933.

Lesson #2:

Material Needed:

- Copies of photos from Power Point CD: Hoovervilles; Photo Essay of Great Depression.
- Copies of selected scenes from both plays.
- Copies of letters of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Aim: How did the Great Depression affect the American Dream?

Do Now:

1. Depression Era Photo Analysis: (Dorothea Lange/soup kitchens/Hoovervilles)
    a. In pairs or small groups, have students select an individual in one of the photos.
    b. They should discuss, briefly, the following:
        i. What is going on in these pictures?
        ii. What details in the photo stand out to you?
        iii. How do you feel the person you chose feel and/or is thinking?
        iv. How do these photos make you feel?

Main Activity:

2. Briefly explain who Dorothea Lange was and her role in the WPA.
    a. What was Ms. Lange's intent by taking these photos?
3. Ask the students to write a brief fictionalized response to the photos they just looked at.
    a. They should write in the point of view (first person) of the individual in the photo.
    b. The student can write this in one of the following ways:
        i. A diary/journal entry.
        ii. An inner monologue.
        iii. A letter to a relative or friend far away.
        iv. A story.
            1. They can explore, but are not limited to: character name, age, where they live, how they live, family members, occupation they have or had, fears, dreams, and hopes and aspirations.
    c. Share some of the writing aloud.
    d. Collect the writing for a later use.
4. Make copies and hand out the selected scenes from the plays:
5. Re-introduce the two plays.
    a. Both were written during and about the Great Depression, but deal with the subject from different perspectives.
    b. Briefly describe the characters and circumstances of the two plays.
        i. *Of Mice and Men*:
            1. Act I, Scene 1 pp 14-16
                a. George reminds Lennie about their dream of "living off the fat of the land."
            2. Act II, Scene 2, pp 51-53,
                a. the scene between Crooks, Candy, and Lennie
        ii. *Awake and Sing!:*
            1. Act II, Scene 1, pp. 68-73

a. Confrontation between Morty and Jacob from when Morty enters to when he leaves.

6. Have students read scenes aloud
7. Discussion:
    a. For *Of Mice and Men*:
        i. What is George and Lennie's version of the American Dream?
        ii. Note how in Act II scene Crooks, the scoffer, starts to buy into Lennie's dream.
    b. For *Awake and Sing*:
        i. In the Morty/Jacob scene, who has the upper hand?
        ii. Who wins the argument?
        iii. What does it suggest about Odets's attitude?
        iv. Look at the exchanges between Moe and Ralph, immediately preceding this scene
        v. Copy and handout pgs. 66-67.
            1. Point out how in this scene, the three older men, Moe, Morty, and Jacob are battling over what path Ralph should take in life. It's perhaps the moment in the play when the three paths are most explicitly articulated, Moe representing the third path, the one paved with "easy money" on the outskirts of the law.
        vi. What is Morty's and Jacob's attitude toward Moe's idea?
        vii. Does Jacob acknowledge the distinction between Morty's and Moe's paths as Morty does?
8. Compare and contrast the Steinbeck and the Odets scenes.
9. Discuss how, in *Of Mice and Men,* all three characters buy into the essential validity of Lennie's dream, the conflict arising over whether or not it's attainable.
    a. In *Awake and Sing!,* Jacob questions whether Morty's success really "counts" or whether simply earning money, especially on the backs of others, is a worthy, morally defensible pursuit.

*Teacher Note: the rate of speed of the readings and the depth of the discussion may dictate **that** this lesson plan may run into a second period. Please adjust accordingly.

Homework:

1. Hand out copies of letters of Eleanor Roosevelt to read and bring back to class.
2. Have students research who FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt were.
    a. FDR's 'fireside chats' kept people hopeful during the Great Depression and were only possible because so many families had radios in their homes. Everyone received the same news at the same time for the first time in history.
3. Have the students write a letter to either FDR or Mrs. Roosevelt in the tone of the letters they've read.
    a. They should write as if they were experiencing life during the depression themselves.
    b. What would they want the President or his wife to know?
    c. What kind of help could you, your family and/or your community use?

* Teacher Note: For additional information about the New Deal Era: http://newdeal.feri.org/library/default.cfm

Star Route One
Albertville, Ala.
January 1, 1936

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

For some time I have wished to be aqainted with you. Or merely to receive a letter from you. I have wish much to see you, but as I am a poor girl and have never been out of our state that will be impossible I guess.

Mrs. Roosevelt since I have been in high school I have been studying modern things and conveniences. I took your family for my study. I have found the study to be the most interesting subjects I could have found. In the study I, at all times know where you are, by reading all papers I find at school and elsewhere. I find what you are doing. You may never had given this a thought, but to think over our daily lives there is a good story to it.

My life has been a story to me and most of the time a miserable one. When I was 7 years old my father left for a law school and never returned. This leaving my mother and 4 children. He left us a small farm, but it could not keep us up. For when we went back to mother's people the renters would not give us part. and we were still dependent. I have been shoved to pillow to post that I feel very relieved to get off to my self.

I am now 15 years old and in the 10th grade. I have always been smart but I never had a chance as all of us is so poor. I hope to complete my education, but I will have to quit school I guess if there is no clothes can be bought. (Don't think that we are on the relief.) Mother has been a faithful servent for us to keep us to gather. I don't see how she has made it.

Mrs Roosevelt, don't think I am just begging, but that is all you can call it I guess. There is no harm in asking I guess eather. Do you have any old clothes you have throwed back. You don't realize how honored I would feel to be wearing your clothes. I don't have a coat at all to wear. The clothes may be too large but I can cut them down so I can wear them. Not only clothes but old shoes, hats, hose, and under wear would be appreciated so much. I have three brothers that would appreciate any old clothes of your boys or husband. I wish you could see the part of North Alabama now. The trees, groves, and every thing is covered with ice and snow. It is a very pretty scene. But Oh, how cold it is here. People can hardly stay comfortable.

I will close now as it is about mail time. I hope to hear from you soon. (ans real soon)

Your friend,
M. I.

Reply to the letter:

January 4, 1936

My dear Miss I:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to express her regret that because of the great number of similar requests, she has found it impossible to comply with them, much as she would like to assist all those who appeal to her.

Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathy, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Milltown, N.J.
March 25, 1935

My dearest President and Mrs Roosevelt;

Just a few lines to let you know, I am in good health, whishing this letter will fined your all well.

Mrs and Pres. Roosevelt, in the first place I must tell you my name, O.C. - 14 years old.

I am writing to you Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, to ask if I may ask one question, but I must first tell you my story.

Well you see Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, I was doctering for a while, with out my Mother and Dad knowing it, in fact they don't know it yet, & I owe Dr. Forney, $7.50. I haven't any idea how to earn this amount, I was doctering for an infected arm. Every time I went the Dr. charged me $1.50, & I went 5 times.

Could you kindly please help me Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt. Please don't write to my parents about me owing this money. But if you will kindly help me I will greatly, & certainly appreciate it. If you help me Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, send my note or your letter, to this address.

O. C.
Milltown Public School
Milltown, N.J.

I will certinally appreate your help.

Let me tell you one more thing, Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, this summer aunt Joan, is going to take me on a vacation down at West Virginia, & while were going, I'll stop in and visit you, and then you can see who I am. Hows that?

Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, could you please send this amount by April 5. I'd like to pay this out, before my parents receive a bill from the Docters office. O.K. Please.

Sincerely, yours,
O. C.

Reply to the letter:

March 27, 1935

My dear O. C.:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to express her regret that because of the great number of similar requests she receives, she has found it impossible to comply with them, much as she would like to assist all those who appeal to her.

Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathy, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt
(M. A.)

[A second letter from O.C. followed.]

Milltown, N.J.
April 2, 1935

My dearest Mrs. and Pres. Roosevelt;

I have received your loving note, which was singed by Mrs. Roosevelt's sect'y. I was very worried to see you were unable to help me out. Please Mrs. Roosevelt, please help me out, I owen Dr. Forney, $10.00 now. & I am not able to earn it, I only have five cents saved, please, please do, something, & I'll tell no one you send me some money. Some day I will help you. Right this minute I crying, because I can't earn it. I don't want my parents to find, please send me something before April 15. Please. Help me.

Sincerely,
O. C.

Address.

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O. C.
Milltown,
   Public School,
Milltown, N. J.
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[Reply to the second letter is not available.]

Metheun, Mass.
Mar. 31, 1935

Dear President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

The favor I am about to ask you is one which I consider a great one. I am asking if you could possibly send me a girl's bicycle. The school which I attend is very far and I am not very healthy I often get pains in my sides. My father only works two days a week and there are six in my family, it is impossible in almost every way that I can get a bicycle! I am in the eighth grade and am very fond of school. Sometimes I have to miss school on account of the walk so far. I have often thought things would pick up and father might be able to get me a bicycle, but instead they have grown worse. I assure you that the bicycle shall not be used as a pleasure but as a necessity.

I shall be waiting patiently, for my greatest wish to be granted, as I feel sure that you cannot and will not turn me down. Please try to send it to me.

I shall remain

Sincerely yours,
M. B.

Reply to the letter:

April 3, 1935

My dear Miss B.:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to acknowledge your letter for her. She is very sorry indeed that she cannot comply with your wishes, but owing to the large number of similar requests, it is impossible for her to do as you ask.

Assuring you of her regret, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt
(M. L. T.)

Mason, Wisconsin
January 9, 1934

Dear Mrs. F. Roosevelt,

I suppose you'll be kind of surprised to hear from a poor little girl. I am ten years old. On Christmas eve I had wished for Santa Clause to come but my mama said the chimney was blocked & he couldn't come, so I had a poor Christmas. I was expecting Santa to bring me some things.

I lost my daddy when I was two years old.

I have read in the papers how good you are to the poor and thought maybe you can help me some. I will appreciate it all my life.

To-day we have started school from our Christmas vacation & all the children talk about how many presants Santa has brought them & I felt so bad cause I had nothing to say. I guess that is all. My address is

R#2, Box 7
Mason, Wisconsin

Yours truly,
M. A.

Reply to the letter:

January 18, 1934

My dear M. A.:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to express her regret that because of the great number of similar requests she receives, she has found it impossible to attempt to comply with them, much as she would like to assist those who appeal to her.

Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathy, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.
(D. D.)

Anderson County Schools
Clinton, Tennessee
January 26, 1936

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

You may think I am a very insignificant person to be writing to a person of your standing and ability but by reading your article and hearing your talks I know you are real and have an interest in people even my dear little needy boys and girls of the mountain schools.

I am Rural Supervisor of schools in my county. I have forty schools to supervise. Due to insufficient clothing and food many are unable to attend schools.

I wish it were possible for you to see some of the conditions. It is not uncommon for a child to have but one dress or one shirt. They have to stay at home the day the mother laundries them.

I am just wishing that in some of your groups that it would be possible to interest them in our needs. The Save the Children Fund, with headquarters in New York, has helped me some. Many children of my schools would be unable to attend school had it not been for this organization.

I hope you will not consider me rude for writing. I have my heart in the work. I realize a hungry or a cold child cannot learn too much.

Yours very truly,
C. B. S.

Reply to the letter:

January 31, 1936

My dear Miss S:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to tell you that she read it with sympathetic interest. Much as she would like to help you, she finds it impossible to do so, as all the money she has to give has been pledged and allocated.

Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's regret, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

MONEY FOR CLOTHS

Granette, Ark.
Nov. 6, 1936

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt

I am writing to you for some of your old soiled dresses if you have any. As I am a poor girl who has to stay out of school. On account of dresses & slips and a coat. I am in the seventh grade but I have to stay out of school because I have no books or clothes to ware. I am in need of dresses & slips and a coat very bad. If you have any soiled clothes that you don't want to ware I would be very glad to get them. But please do not let the news paper reporters get hold of this in any way and I will keep it from geting out here so there will be no one else to get hold of it. But do not let my name get out in the paper. I am thirteen years old.

Yours Truly,
Miss L. H.
Gravette, Ark.
R #3
c/o A. H.

Reply to the letter:

November 13, 1936

My dear Miss H:

Mrs. Roosevelt and her Secretary are away and in their absence I have been asked to acknowledge their mail.

I know Mrs. Roosevelt would be very sorry to hear of your difficulties. However, she would be unable to comply with your request as there are certain persons to whom she sends the clothing for which she has no further use.

Very sincerely yours,
[no signature]

MONEY FOR CLOTHS

Star Route One
Albertville, Ala.
January 1, 1936

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

For some time I have wished to be aqainted with you. Or merly to receive a letter from you. I haved wish much to see you, but as I am a poor girl and have never been out of our state that will be impossible I guess.

Mrs. Roosevelt since I have been in high school I have been studying modern things and conveniences. I took your family for my study. I have found the study to be the most interesting subjects I could have found. In the study I, at all times know where you are, by reading all papers I find at school and elsewhere. I find what you are doing. You may never had given this a thought, but to think over our daily lives there is a good story to it.

My life has been a story to me and most of the time a miserable one. When I was 7 years old my father left for a law school and never returned. This leaving my mother and 4 children. He left us a small farm, but it could not keep us up. For when we went back to mother's people the renters would not give us part. and we were still dependent. I have been shoved to pillow to post that I feel very relieved to get off to my self.

I am now 15 years old and in the 10th grade. I have always been smart but I never had a chance as all of us is so poor. I hope to complete my education, but I will have to quit school I guess if there is no clothes can be bought. (Don't think that we are on the relief.) Mother has been a faithful servent for us to keep us to gather. I don't see how she has made it.

Mrs Roosevelt, don't think I am just begging, but that is all you can call it I guess. There is no harm in asking I guess eather. Do you have any old clothes you have throwed back. You don't realize how honored I would feel to be wearing your clothes. I don't have a coat at all to wear. The clothes may be too large but I can cut them down so I can wear them. Not only clothes but old shoes, hats, hose, and under wear would be appreciated so much. I have three brothers that would appreciate any old clothes of your boys or husband. I wish you could see the part of North Alabama now. The trees, groves, and every thing is covered with ice and snow. It is a very pretty scene. But Oh, how cold it is here. People can hardly stay comfortable.

I will close now as it is about mail time. I hope to hear from you soon. (ans real soon)

Your friend,
M. I.

Reply to the letter:

January 4, 1936

My dear Miss I:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to express her regret that because of the great number of similar requests, she has found it impossible to comply with them, much as she would like to assist all those who appeal to her.

Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathy, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

MONEY FOR CLOTHS

Anderson County Schools
Clinton, Tennessee
January 26, 1936

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

You may think I am a very insignificant person to be writing to a person of your standing and ability but by reading your article and hearing your talks I know you are real and have an interest in people even my dear little needy boys and girls of the mountain schools.

I am Rural Supervisor of schools in my county. I have forty schools to supervise. Due to insufficient clothing and food many are unable to attend schools.

I wish it were possible for you to see some of the conditions. It is not uncommon for a child to have but one dress or one shirt. They have to stay at home the day the mother laundries them.

I am just wishing that in some of your groups that it would be possible to interest them in our needs. The Save the Children Fund, with headquarters in New York, has helped me some. Many children of my schools would be unable to attend school had it not been for this organization.

I hope you will not consider me rude for writing. I have my heart in the work. I realize a hungry or a cold child cannot learn too much.

Yours very truly,
C. B. S.

Reply to the letter:

January 31, 1936

My dear Miss S:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to tell you that she read it with sympathetic interest. Much as she would like to help you, she finds it impossible to do so, as all the money she has to give has been pledged and allocated.

Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's regret, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

MONEY FOR HOLLYWOOD

Centerdale R.I
April 17, 1938

Dear Mrs. Roosvelt

I am writing to you to ask a big favor, the biggest favor anybody can ask. I would like to know if you would pay my way to Hollywood. You may think me crazy but I not. I mean every word I say. I know you may write back and say, lots of people ask you to pay their way to Hollywood or for some other reason, but this is different honest it is you've just got to believe in me your the only one that can help. Or you may say what can I do child. Well you could tell them that you sent me and you know I can act, I'm sure they would believe you, because you tell no fibes. Just think wouldn't you be proud if I became a great movie Star and you would say to your friends, She's the little girl who wrote to me and asked if she could go to Hollywood. And I've helped to make her a great Star. I would like to tell you all this in person and then you could see me, but I have no money for carfare and I don't want you to bother to give it to me. My Little mother is a sickly lady, she is lovely so small and sweet I love my little mother dearly and I want to help her all I can so this is why I am writing to you, It will also give me a future and bring proudness to my relatives. My Little mother has something wrong with her heart which these small Doctors dont know although they do try their best. So I thought if I went to Hollywood and earned enough money I would be able to give my Little mother the best Doctors and proper care. I am not writing this letter to Mr. Roosvelt because men don't understand things like us laides do, so I am writing to you because I know you understand. I have read and heard so many nice [missing text]

I know I can act because I make little plays which I get out of story books and act them out. Please tell Mr. Roosvelt that I'm terribly sorry he lost that Bill. I think Mr. Roosvelt is doing wonders. Please be sure and tell him this, it will make him feel much better. I told some of my friends about my Idea but they only laugh at me, and I get discouraged but when I look at my Little mother I run upstairs in my room and cry. I have Mr. Roosvelt's picture in my room and his name in big read and blue letters. And when I looked at his picture it gave me an Idea and my Idea was writing to you. Please Mrs. Roosvelt answer my letter, and please oh please say yes that you'll try your hardest. God will never forget you in the next world. And what you do for your father and mother will never be forgotton. My father is also a sickly man, he had two nervous breakdowns but never got over the second one. But I am a healthy child. I am fourteen years old. blue eyes, about sixty in. tall, weigh 105 1/2 pds, hair is long and curly sort of natural the color is light brown my complexion is very white. I have big eyes. Please trust in me with all your heart and I will trust in you with all my heart. Please just for my Little mother. (That's what I call her because she is so small.)

If you the Secretary should open this letter Before Mrs. Roosvelt please give it to her. Thank you.

A Little Girl who is still Unknown and Just Became Your Friend
J. I. A.

Reply to the letter:

April 25, 1938

My dear J. I. A.:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter to her. She is very sorry indeed that she cannot comply with your wishes, but owing to the large number of similar requests it is impossible for her to do as you ask.

Assuring you of her regret, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

MONEY FOR DOCTOR

Milltown, N.J.
March 25, 1935

My dearest President and Mrs Roosevelt;

Just a few lines to let you know, I am in good health, whishing this letter will fined your all well.

Mrs and Pres. Roosevelt, in the first place I must tell you my name, O.C. - 14 years old.

I am writing to you Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, to ask if I may ask one question, but I must first tell you my story.

Well you see Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, I was doctering for a while, with out my Mother and Dad knowing it, in fact they don't know it yet, & I owe Dr. Forney, $7.50. I haven't any idea how to earn this amount, I was doctering for an infected arm. Every time I went the Dr. charged me $1.50, & I went 5 times.

Could you kindly please help me Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt. Please don't write to my parents about me owing this money. But if you will kindly help me I will greatly, & certainly appreciate it. If you help me Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, send my note or your letter, to this address.

O. C.
Milltown Public School
Milltown, N.J.

I will certinally appreate your help.

Let me tell you one more thing, Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, this summer aunt Joan, is going to take me on a vacation down at West Virginia, & while were going, I'll stop in and visit you, and then you can see who I am. Hows that?

Pres. and Mrs Roosevelt, could you please send this amount by April 5. I'd like to pay this out, before my parents receive a bill from the Docters office. O.K. Please.

Sincerely, yours,
O. C.

Reply to the letter:

March 27, 1935

My dear O. C.:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to express her regret that because of the great number of similar requests she receives, she has found it impossible to comply with them, much as she would like to assist all those who appeal to her.

Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathy, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt
(M. A.)

[A second letter from O.C. followed.]

Milltown, N.J.
April 2, 1935

My dearest Mrs. and Pres. Roosevelt;

I have received your loving note, which was singed by Mrs. Roosevelt's sect'y. I was very worried to see you were unable to help me out. Please Mrs. Roosevelt, please help me out, I owen Dr. Forney, $10.00 now. & I am not able to earn it, I only have five cents saved, please, please do, something, & I'll tell no one you send me some money. Some day I will help you. Right this minute I crying, because I can't earn it. I don't want my parents to find, please send me something before April 15. Please. Help me.

Sincerely,
O. C.

Address.

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O. C.
Milltown,
   Public School,
Milltown, N. J.
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[Reply to the second letter is not available.]

BICYCLE

Metheun, Mass.
Mar. 31, 1935

Dear President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

The favor I am about to ask you is one which I consider a great one. I am asking if you could possibly send me a girl's bicycle. The school which I attend is very far and I am not very healthy I often get pains in my sides. My father only works two days a week and there are six in my family, it is impossible in almost every way that I can get a bicycle! I am in the eighth grade and am very fond of school. Sometimes I have to miss school on account of the walk so far. I have often thought things would pick up and father might be able to get me a bicycle, but instead they have grown worse. I assure you that the bicycle shall not be used as a pleasure but as a necessity.

I shall be waiting patiently, for my greatest wish to be granted, as I feel sure that you cannot and will not turn me down. Please try to send it to me.

I shall remain

Sincerely yours,
M. B.

Reply to the letter:

April 3, 1935

My dear Miss B.:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to acknowledge your letter for her. She is very sorry indeed that she cannot comply with your wishes, but owing to the large number of similar requests, it is impossible for her to do as you ask.

Assuring you of her regret, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt
(M. L. T.)

CHRITMAS PRESENTS

Mason, Wisconsin
January 9, 1934

Dear Mrs. F. Roosevelt,

I suppose you'll be kind of surprised to hear from a poor little girl. I am ten years old. On Christmas eve I had wished for Santa Clause to come but my mama said the chimney was blocked & he couldn't come, so I had a poor Christmas. I was expecting Santa to bring me some things.

I lost my daddy when I was two years old.

I have read in the papers how good you are to the poor and thought maybe you can help me some. I will appreciate it all my life.

To-day we have started school from our Christmas vacation & all the children talk about how many presants Santa has brought them & I felt so bad cause I had nothing to say. I guess that is all. My address is

R#2, Box 7
Mason, Wisconsin

Yours truly,
M. A.

Reply to the letter:

January 18, 1934

My dear M. A.:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to express her regret that because of the great number of similar requests she receives, she has found it impossible to attempt to comply with them, much as she would like to assist those who appeal to her.

Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathy, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.
(D. D.)

Centerdale R.I
April 17, 1938

Dear Mrs. Roosvelt

I am writing to you to ask a big favor, the biggest favor anybody can ask. I would like to know if you would pay my way to Hollywood. You may think me crazy but I not. I mean every word I say. I know you may write back and say, lots of people ask you to pay their way to Hollywood or for some other reason, but this is different honest it is you've just got to believe in me your the only one that can help. Or you may say what can I do child. Well you could tell them that you sent me and you know I can act, I'm sure they would believe you, because you tell no fibes. Just think wouldn't you be proud if I became a great movie Star and you would say to your friends, She's the little girl who wrote to me and asked if she could go to Hollywood. And I've helped to make her a great Star. I would like to tell you all this in person and then you could see me, but I have no money for carfare and I don't want you to bother to give it to me. My Little mother is a sickly lady, she is lovely so small and sweet I love my little mother dearly and I want to help her all I can so this is why I am writing to you, It will also give me a future and bring proudness to my relatives. My Little mother has something wrong with her heart which these small Doctors dont know although they do try their best. So I thought if I went to Hollywood and earned enough money I would be able to give my Little mother the best Doctors and proper care. I am not writing this letter to Mr. Roosvelt because men don't understand things like us laides do, so I am writing to you because I know you understand. I have read and heard so many nice [missing text]

I know I can act because I make little plays which I get out of story books and act them out. Please tell Mr. Roosvelt that I'm terribly sorry he lost that Bill. I think Mr. Roosvelt is doing wonders. Please be sure and tell him this, it will make him feel much better. I told some of my friends about my Idea but they only laugh at me, and I get discouraged but when I look at my Little mother I run upstairs in my room and cry. I have Mr. Roosvelt's picture in my room and his name in big read and blue letters. And when I looked at his picture it gave me an Idea and my Idea was writing to you. Please Mrs. Roosvelt answer my letter, and please oh please say yes that you'll try your hardest. God will never forget you in the next world. And what you do for your father and mother will never be forgotton. My father is also a sickly man, he had two nervous breakdowns but never got over the second one. But I am a healthy child. I am fourteen years old. blue eyes, about sixty in. tall, weigh 105 1/2 pds, hair is long and curly sort of natural the color is light brown my complexion is very white. I have big eyes. Please trust in me with all your heart and I will trust in you with all my heart. Please just for my Little mother. (That's what I call her because she is so small.)

If you the Secretary should open this letter Before Mrs. Roosvelt please give it to her. Thank you.

A Little Girl who is still Unknown and Just Became Your Friend
J. I. A.

Reply to the letter:

April 25, 1938

My dear J. I. A.:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter to her. She is very sorry indeed that she cannot comply with your wishes, but owing to the large number of similar requests it is impossible for her to do as you ask.

Assuring you of her regret, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Lesson #3

Material Needed:

- Hang/post the Power Point photos (from yesterday) with student's writings
- Venn diagram post-it
- Copies of selected scenes from the plays
- Copies of lyric "We're in the Money"

Aim: How did those living during the Great Depression handle other adversity besides economic woes?

Do Now:

1. Students reflect through private journal-writing on how financial difficulties can affect interactions with others.
    a. Have they had relevant first-hand experiences?
    b. Do they know others who have?
        i. If not, can they imagine situations in which lack of money would affect family dynamics, romantic relationships, etc?
2. Students share reflections to the extent they are comfortable.

Main Activity:

1. Physical Tableaux:
    a. A Tableau is a frozen picture image using the students as "statues" in poses.
        i. These poses usually depict the emotional essence or story idea of a scene.
        ii. The frozen picture image that is created by the group should, for this exercise, relate to the topic as well as to each other in the group.
        iii. Once in their tableau, they do not speak.
        iv. The tableau should, like a painting or photo, be a "capture" of what is going on emotionally, action and relationships.
            1. It should be clear enough for observers to see the context.
    b. Break the students into groups of four or five.
    c. Choose a statement or descriptive word from the Venn diagram.
        i. i.e: Soup Line; Hunger; Depression; etc.
    d. Write out your choices on separate index cards.
        i. Give one index card per group.
    e. Give each group five minutes to quietly discuss and rehearse their tableau.
        i. Allow each group to go.
        ii. When done, ask the observers to guess what was their statement or descriptive word.
    f. To get them into positions, the teacher will clap his/her hand for them to "freeze."
        i. Allow a short period where the other groups observe and try to explain what they are seeing.
        ii. The teacher claps again to "unfreeze" the group
    g. **Teacher Note**: The physicality of this activity is to embody the emotions that are inherent in the scenes they have been and are reading.

            i. Ask the students to put effort into any further scene "performances."
2. Hand out the selected scenes:
    a. *Of Mice and Men*:
        i. Act 2, Scene 2: (pg. 53-end)
            1. Finish out the rest of the scene from previous day
    b. Act 3, Scene 1: pp59-63
        i. Beginning until Curlys' Wife death
    c. Awake and Sing!:
        i. Act 1: pp 23- 33 (make copies)
            1. Beginning of scene until Moe enters
3. Have the students "perform" the scenes.
4. Discussion:
    a. How do the characters define themselves through their surroundings?
    b. In *Of Mice and Men*:
        i. What comes into play about Crooks comments about himself?
        ii. Why do you feel Curly's Wife is only referred to this way?
            1. Why does she have no name?
            2. What does this say about women's roles of the time period?
        iii. How do these things reflect on life during the Depression?
    c. In *Awake and Sing!:*
        i. What is the status of the various characters?
        ii. Are the relationships clear?
    d. From both plays scenes, do we learn more about the upheaval in the land as it reflects on their lifestyles?

*Teacher Note: the rate of speed of the readings and the depth of the discussion may dictate that this lesson plan may run into a second period. Please adjust accordingly.

Homework:
1. Hand out copies of lyric to "We're in the Money."
2. The song was written and performed in a Hollywood movie (*Golddiggers of 1933*) only four years after the market crash of 1929.
    a. Ask the students to watch the video of the song:
        i. http://www.clipser.com/watch_video/66416

3. Ask the students to research if the song's lyrics really reflect what was happening in 1933 through statistics of unemployment, prices of essential items, job wages, etc.
4. Why did Hollywood offer this vision to the general public at this time?
5. What is the difference in tone between this song and "Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?"

"We're in the Money," lyrics by Al Dubin, music by Harry Warren (from the film *Gold Diggers of 1933*, 1933)

We're in the money, we're in the money;

We've got a lot of what it takes to get along!

We're in the money, that sky is sunny,

Old Man Depression you are through, you done us wrong.

We never see a headline about breadlines today.

And when we see the landlord we can look that guy right in the eye

We're in the money, come on, my honey,

Let's lend it, spend it, send it rolling along!

Oh, yes we're in the money, you bet we're in the money,

We've got a lot of what it takes to get along!

Let's go we're in the money, Look up the skies are sunny,

Old Man Depression you are through, you done us wrong.

We never see a headline about breadlines today.

And when we see the landlord we can look that guy right in the eye

We're in the money, come on, my honey,

Let's lend it, spend it, send it rolling along

Lesson #4

Material Needed:

- CD Player
- CD from resource kit
- Copies of lyrics to "Over the Rainbow"
- Copies of selected scenes

Aim: How does popular culture (music) reflect feelings about what is going on in society?

Do Now:

1. Hand out copies of the lyrics to "Over the Rainbow."
2. Play the song from the CD from the resource kit.
3. Analyze the lyrics from that song.
    a. Why do you think it appealed to Americans at the time?
    b. What does it express about how they must have felt about life before and their hopes for life after the depression?

Main Activity:

1. Opening discussion:
    a. During the 1930's, people sought an escape from the hardships of their everyday life. Two of the most common forms of entertainment were radio programs and movies. People did not want to be reminded of the hard times but given hope that things would get better.
    b. This form of 'escapism' is clearly seen in the movie *The Wizard of Oz*.
    c. This song was written in 1938, five years after "We're in the Money."
    d. What is the difference in attitudes between the two songs?
        i. Note: you will have "We're in the Money" on the resource kit CD if no one listened to it.
    e. What changes were happening in America and the world by the end of the 1930's?
        i. *This can lead you into the effects of the beginnings of your unit on World War II.
2. Have the following two quotes written out beforehand on the board or post-it tablet:
    a. "Without a dollar you don't look the world in the eye – this is life in America."
    b. "We don't want life printed on dollar bills!"
        i. What do each of the statements, from *Awake and Sing!*, mean and which do you agree with more?
        ii. Write a journal entry discussing each statement and arguing in favor of one or the other.
3. Divide the class into small groups.
    a. Try to ensure that an equal number of defenders of each statement are in each group.

b. Each group collaboratively writes a scene between two members of a nuclear family that is in crisis because of financial hardship.
    i. Who are they?
    ii. What is the family's history?
    iii. What is the specific nature of the crisis?
c. In the course of the scene one of the characters utters the first line, the other the second.
    i. Students perform and discuss their scenes.
d. Hand out selected scene between Bessie and Ralph from Act III of *Awake and Sing!* (from which these lines are taken)
e. Copy and handout pages 105-107
    i. Begin with Bessie: "Please don't have foolish ideas about the money".
f. Read and discuss.
    i. Summarize Ralph's and Bessie's points of view.
    ii. What is at stake in the scene?
    iii. What does each character want from the other?
    iv. How does the scene resolve?
    v. How is this scene different from and similar to the students' scenes?

*Teacher Note: the rate of speed of the readings and the depth of the discussion may dictate that this lesson plan may run into a second period. Please adjust accordingly.

Homework:

1. What is your perception of the world today?
2. Find TWO songs from today that you feel:
    a. One that realistically reflects today's society as you see it.
    b. One that more idealized, more "pie in the sky", less realistic.
3. Print out or copy the lyrics and bring in.

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow"

Music by Harold Arlen and lyrics by E.Y. Harburg (1938)

Somewhere over the rainbow
Way up high,
There's a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby.

Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue,
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true.

Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far
Behind me.
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me.

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly.
Birds fly over the rainbow.
Why then, oh why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?