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ABSTRACT

Wijaya, Steven, A Study on the Major Characters of John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men, S-1 Thesis, The English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya, 1996

By studying literature, the students will get certain benefits such as: improving their vocabulary and grammar, learning another culture and ways of life, and also learning about feelings, dreams and struggles of life written there. The writer, therefore, is interested in studying a literary work, namely novel, since it has a special quality in describing characters.

In this study the writer chooses John Steinbeck's novel, Of Mice and Men with consideration that Steinbeck is regarded as a writer of great talent, and furthermore, he won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize.

This study uses Little's points of analysing character that includes finding the major characters' basic qualities that cover physical and mental qualities, the relationship between the two major characters, the way the author presents the major characters, and whether or not the major characters are able to embody the theme.

The results of the analysis show that the major characters' basic qualities are described vividly and convincingly that really support their roles in the story. The relationship between the two major characters are so perfectly connected that when one is destroyed the other is automatically destroyed. It can also be inferred that the major characters which are presented in a combination of dramatic and descriptive style are able to embody the theme.