

## Year 9 Lesson 2 – Toxic Masculinity

"I'll show ya who's yella."

Monday, 30 March 2020

LO: to understand the links between toxic masculinity, hubris and sexism as is presented on the ranch.

### Do Now:

1. Prejudice. In other words...
2. Discrimination. In other words...
3. Malevolent. In other words...
4. Slim drowned 4 of his dog's puppies. Why?
5. List 3 marginalised characters from the novel.

### Vocabulary:

Toxic Masculinity

Hubris

Sexism

### Toxic Masculinity

Behaviours and expectations in and of men that limits emotional reactions and brands them as pathetic/weak/silly.

Key Fact: the biggest killer of men aged between 21 and 40 is suicide.



### Hubris

Excessive Pride, often leading to arrogance.

Examples...

Curley is a hubristic character.  
Hubris was Macbeth's downfall.

As you read the extract today, consider why Curley behaves the way he does?



### Sexism

A belief that one 'sex' is better, more important than the other.

Examples...

When George agrees with Candy that many men have married 'tarts', he reveals his deep-seated sexism towards women. In other words, his belief that women are untrustworthy and lead to trouble.

As you read the extract today, identify other 'sexist' characters.



### Teaching and Knowledge: Toxic Masculinity, Hubris and Sexism

- America in the 1930s was very much a **patriarchal society**. This meant that society was dominated by men in the majority of society's arenas: political, religious, economic. It was very rare to see a woman in a position of power. So when the Great Depression took jobs away from men, it caused havoc with a man's sense of **duty** and **purpose** and so ideas of what it meant to be a man were challenged.
- During the Great Depression, the **equality gap** between men and women grew wider as more men relied on hard labouring jobs to support themselves, and work for women became hard to come by.
- This hardship and discord within America communities caused fractures. People became less trusting, more sexist, racist, ageist and prejudiced.

As you read the extract, think about the ways Steinbeck presents masculinity, hubris and sexism. Who presents these and how? What is Steinbeck revealing about life during this time?

### Extract from lesson:

"I ought to of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't ought to of let no stranger shoot my dog."

**The door opened.** Slim came in, followed by Curley **and** Carlson **and** Whit. Slim's hands were black with tar and he was **scowling**. Curley hung close to his **elbow**.

Curley said, "Well, I didn't mean nothing, Slim. **I just** ast you."

Slim said, "Well, you been askin' me too often. I'm gettin' **God damn** sick of it. If you can't look after your own **God damn** wife, what you expect me to do about it? You lay offa me."

"**I'm jus'** tryin' to tell you I didn't mean nothing," said Curley. "**I jus'** thought you might of saw her."

