



John Steinbeck Festival of Literature, Film & Music
Limavady

Dust Bowl Writing Competition

Guidance

In the spirit of John Steinbeck's works you are invited to answer one of the following questions and write about **issues that have influenced you in today's world** (racism, feminism, migration, economic and social issues).

Answer **either**:

1. Based primarily on a reading of Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men', make a case for reading John Steinbeck in the 21st century.

OR

2. Curley's wife is the only female character developed in 'Of Mice and Men'.

With close reference to Steinbeck's portrayal of this character as both an aggressor and a victim, to what extent do you feel she is responsible for her fate?

You may wish to take into account how John Steinbeck focussed on the challenges and decisions faced by individuals in a complex world.

You may wish to keep in mind John Steinbeck's use of descriptive language, his development of mood and foreshadowing.

Responses should be between **1200 and 1500 words** and **emailed to steinbeckfestival@gmail.com** with the subject 'Dust Bowl Writing Award.'

Your name, address, phone number, and the title of the question you are answering, should also be typed on the response.

The deadline for the competition is **12 noon on 31st January 2020**.

The winner will be presented with the **Dust Bowl Writing Award** on Saturday evening 29th February 2020 in the Alexander Arms Hotel, Main Street, Limavady, by author and journalist **Malachi O'Doherty**.