QAR: Question Answer Response Strategy
for *Of Mice and Men* – Teacher’s Guide

**Purpose:** The purpose of this strategy is to give you, the teacher, some model questions to enhance discussions in your classroom. The goal is to go beyond the facts of the novel into higher levels of thinking where students must make judgments and infer information from the author. The kind of questions can be divided into the following categories:

Found in the text:
- **Right There:** the answer is textually explicit (can be found in the text), usually as a phrase contained within one sentence.
- **Think and Search:** while the answer is in the text, the answer is implicit and the student is required to combine separate sections or chunks of text to answer the question.

Found in your head:
- **On Your Own:** requires students to think about what is already known from their reading and experience (schema and prior knowledge) to formulate the answer.
- **Author and You:** as the answer is not directly stated in the text, the student draws on prior knowledge (schema) and what the author has written to answer the question.

**Context:** All of the passages and questions for this activity came from the final chapter of the novel (chapter six). It is intended to serve as a starting point for discussion about the most difficult issues in the book: guilt, shame, blame, disappointment, mercy killing, meaning of friendship, etc.

**Directions:** Apply the pattern from the samples to formulate even more questions for the discussion. Make sure to include questions from all four categories so that students with different abilities can all participate and so that all students will be able to ask themselves some of the questions that Steinbeck intended.

Allen, 2002