



Author of the Week: John Steinbeck



"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

Life and career:

John Ernst Steinbeck Jr. was an American author. He won the 1962 Nobel Prize in Literature "for his realistic and imaginative writings, combining as they do sympathetic humour and keen social perception." He has been called "a giant of American letters," and many of his works are considered classics of Western literature. During his writing career, he authored 27 books, including 16 novels, six non-fiction books, and two collections of short stories. He is widely known for the comic novels *Tortilla Flat* (1935) and *Cannery Row* (1945), the multi-generation epic *East of Eden* (1952),

and the novellas of *Mice and Men* (1937) and *The Red Pony* (1937). The Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939) is considered Steinbeck's masterpiece and part of the American literary canon. In the first 75 years after it was published, it sold 14 million copies. Most of Steinbeck's work is set in central California, particularly in the Salinas Valley and the California Coast Ranges region. His works frequently explored the themes of fate and injustice, especially as applied to downtrodden or everyman protagonists.

Awards, inspirations and controversy:

In 1962, Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for literature for his "realistic and imaginative writing, combining as it does sympathetic humor and keen social perception." The selection was heavily criticized, and described as "one of the Academy's biggest mistakes".

Although modest about his own talent as a writer, Steinbeck talked openly of his own admiration of certain writers. In 1953, he wrote that he considered cartoonist Al Capp, creator of the satirical *Li'l Abner*, "possibly the best writer in the world today." At his own first Nobel Prize press conference he was asked his favorite authors and works and replied: "Hemingway's short stories and nearly everything Faulkner wrote." In September 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded Steinbeck Presidential Medal of Freedom.

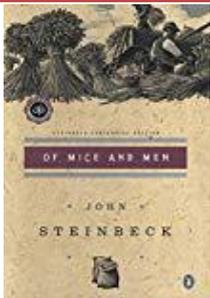
Literary influences:

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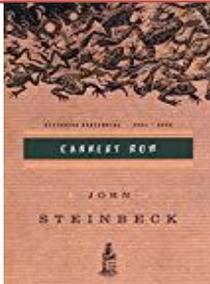
To know more about the author:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Steinbeck
- <http://www.steinbeck.org/about-john/biography/>
- <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1962/steinbeck/biographical/>

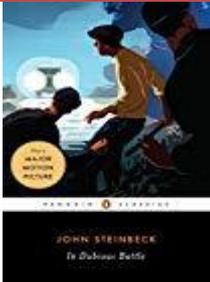
Books by John Steinbeck



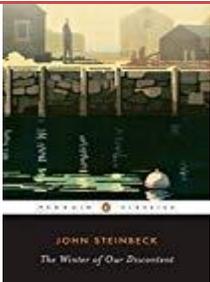
Title: Of mice and men
Author: Steinbeck, John
Publisher: Penguin Books
Call No.: 813.52 STE
Accession No. : 009365



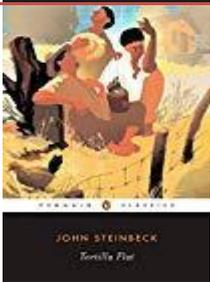
Title: Cannery Row
Author: Steinbeck, John
Publisher: Penguin Books
Call No.: 813.52 STE
Accession No. : 009758



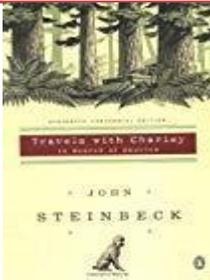
Title: In dubious battle
Author: Steinbeck, John
Publisher: Penguin Books
Call No.: 813.52 STE
Accession No. : 009761



Title: The winter of our discontent
Author: Steinbeck, John
Publisher: Penguin Books
Call No.: 813.52 STE
Accession No. : 009766



Title: Tortilla flat
Author: Steinbeck, John
Publisher: Penguin Books
Call No.: 813.52 STE
Accession No. : 009767



Title: Travels with Charley in search of America
Author: Steinbeck, John
Publisher: Penguin Books
Call No.: 818.5203 STE
Accession No.: 025368