

Approved for use in all levels of English I

Summary of the Work:

Jody Tiflin, a young boy growing up on a ranch in Northern California, learns a lot about life when he is gifted with a red pony from his father. He discovers a world where even adults have clay feet, where the joy of birth mingles with the sorrow of death, and where growing up means accepting responsibility. Jody's coming of age story is one which explores the meaning of true friendship and the strong bond that can be forged between man and animal.

Rationale:

Freshmen will respond to the struggles and insight of the young boy in this easily accessible, short novel. This novel is comprised of four stories which make it ideal for studying literary analysis, and how parts contribute to the whole. The novel provides an excellent jumping off point for discussing many issues facing young adults. It also serves as wonderful introduction to the powerful, descriptive narrative of Nobel Award winning author John Steinbeck, one of America's most highly acclaimed authors.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- L.A. Recommended Foreign Language Book
- * Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.
- * Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 810
- Readability Level: 6.4

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: *(link)*

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 1968

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Connection to the Curriculum:

This Freshman novel celebrates the adventurous spirit of youth and maturing courage makes it an inspiring read.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)