Theme Maps — Filled Examples (3 Core Texts)

Concise, model planning for: Of Mice and Men • Lord of the Flies • Jekyll & Hyde

Of Mice and Men — Dreams & Powerlessness

Thesis: The modest dream of a ‘little place’ humanises the men but is systematically crushed by Depression■era economics.

Golden evidence: ‘live off the fatta the lan’’ • Crooks: ‘seen hundreds of men’ • Candy’s dog (utilitarian culling).

Turning point: Barn death → dream ends; mercy killing preserves dignity, not hope.

Techniques: symbolism (rabbits), foreshadowing, cyclic setting (riverbank).

Lord of the Flies — Civilisation vs Savagery

Thesis: Without accountability, fear and charisma fuse into authoritarian violence.

Golden evidence: conch (order) • Piggy’s specs (knowledge/fire) • painted mask (shame removed).

Turning point: Simon’s death in storm■dance; truth about ‘beast’ dies with him.

Techniques: allegory, symbol cluster, setting contrast (lagoon vs castle rock).

Jekyll & Hyde — Duality & Repression

Thesis: Attempting to purify the self creates monstrosity; Hyde is Jekyll’s licensed appetite.

Golden evidence: ‘troglodytic’ • the locked door • identical handwritings.

Turning point: Jekyll’s full statement reframes the mystery as moral confession.

Techniques: narrative structure (documents), setting as psyche (Soho vs respectability).

Tip: Lift the thesis line straight into your introduction.