Of Mice and Men – Ch. 2 Bunkhouse Drawing Assignment

**Procedure:** After you’ve finished working through chapter 2 (use the study guide worksheets from the bundle and finish answers/class discussion), have students turn back to the beginning of ch. 2 and then set down their books. Read the opening paragraph of ch. 2 aloud to the class, but have students close their eyes as you read Steinbeck’s description of the bunkhouse. Your students’ mission is to try to observe in their mind’s eye all of the details that Steinbeck stuffs into that one paragraph.

After you’ve finished reading the paragraph aloud, have students open their eyes and sketch the room on a sheet of printer paper. The rules are pretty loose on this art assignment; I tell my classes that the room needs to have the specific details mentioned in the passage and needs to be accurate. Other than that, I allow students to take whatever approach they like (see attached samples, which are also on a Powerpoint for you to share with your students, if you like.) Some students draw the room like a stage set, while others prefer a bird’s eye view. Some students use just pencil, while others add color. I like to give as few rules as possible with artsy assignments, just to see what students will create.

If you have reluctant artists, you can demonstrate a basic lesson on perspective and have them do their best to build their drawing using this technique. I’ve made a teacher prep video on artistic perspective, just to show you how I present this idea to the students. To view the teacher prep lesson model, just copy-and-paste this address: http://www.educreations.com/lesson/view/bunkhouse-drawing/9311826/?s=1goucr&ref=link

Finally, I give each student a sheet of regular printer paper to work with, but any size/dimension paper that you have available will work fine. After I give directions, show models, and handout paper, I allow students the rest of the class period to work on their drawings.

On the next day when the drawings are due, students quickly share their artwork with their row partners before I collect the assignment. Later, I post some of the best examples on a class bulletin board and give out bonus points for extraordinary effort.

**Time:** 45 minutes

**Note:** The examples on the next few pages are strong efforts by my former students. Obviously, we are not all artistically gifted in the same way, so I grade this assignment on effort and accuracy to the paragraph, NOT on artistic talent. Still, my students like the inspiration from former students. The fifth and last image is beyond anything I would expect any of my students to create, yet a wonderful young woman in my class dazzled me with her effort and I thought I should share it with the world. It’s always a jaw-dropper for my classes. Hope you enjoy my students’ work.
Stage set design:
Using perspective/vanishing point:
Architectural/Drafting approach:

The Bunk House

Not showing (on this wall): door, other bunk bed, 2 beds (not made)
Corner perspective:
Unbridled awesomeness (love the light through the window):