***Of Mice and Men* Name:**

**“To A Mouse” Date:**

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following poem and complete a SOAPSTone on it.**

“To A Mouse”

by Robert Burns

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| Oh, tiny timorous forlorn beast,  Oh why the panic in your breast?  You need not dart away in haste  To some corn-rick (bin)  I'd never run and chase you,  With murdering stick.  I'm truly sorry man's dominion  Has broken nature's social union,  And justifies that ill opinion  Which makes you startle  At me, your poor earth-born companion,  And fellow mortal.  I do not doubt you have to thieve;  What then? Poor beastie you must live;  One ear of corn that's scarcely missed  Is small enough:  I'll share with you all this year's grist,  Without rebuff.  Your wee bit housie too in ruin,  Its fragile walls the winds have strewn,  And you've nothing new to build a new one,  Of grasses green;  And bleak December winds ensuing,  Both cold and keen. | You saw the fields laid bare and waste,  And weary winter coming fast,  And cosy there beneath the blast,  You thought to dwell,  Till crash; the cruel ploughman crushed  your little cell.  Your wee bit heap of leaves and stubble,  Had cost you many a weary nibble.  Now you're turned out for all your trouble  Of house and home  To bear the winter's sleety drizzle,  And hoar frost cold.  But, mousie, you are not alone,  In proving foresight may be in vain,  The best laid schemes of mice and men,  Go oft astray,  And leave us nothing but grief and pain,  To rend our day.  Still you art blessed, compared with me!  The present only touches thee,  But, oh, I backward cast my eye  On prospects drear,  And forward, though I cannot see,  I guess and fear. |

**S.O.A.P.S.Tone**

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| **Speaker**  Who is the voice telling the story? |  |
| **Occasion**  What are the time, place, and setting of the piece? |  |
| **Audience**  To whom is the piece directed? |  |
| **Purpose**  What is the purpose or reason this piece was written? |  |
| **Subject**  What are the general topics/and/or/ideas contained in the text? |  |
| **Tone**  What is the attitude or emotional characteristics present in the piece? |  |