

Name: _____

General

- 1) What is your title for this chapter? _____
- 2) What is your favorite quote or dialogue and who says it? _____

Comprehension

- 1) Why does George warn Lennie not to drink so much water? _____

- 2) Why is George angry at the bus driver? _____

- 3) Lennie has a poor memory and often has to repeat things to remember them. What is the first thing Lennie forgets?

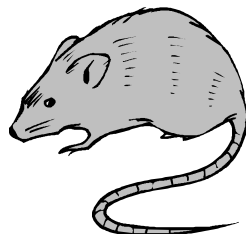
- 4) What does Lennie hide in his pocket from George? Why do you think this seems peculiar? Why is George angry about this? _____

- 5) How far is the ranch from where the two are camping? _____
- 6) What does George see on the way to the camp site and what does this reveal about the type of work they will be doing? _____

- 7) What does Lennie like to have with beans? _____
- 8) When George tells Lennie about their dream, at what point does Lennie get excited? _____

- 9) Towards the end of the first chapter Lennie feels proud? Why does he feel such an emotion?

- 10) What is Lennie to do if he gets into trouble at the ranch? _____



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New Words and Expressions

Acres (n) any of various units of area; specifically: a unit in the US and Britain equal to 43, 569 square feet (4, 047 square meters = 1 acre).

bastard (n) an offensive or disagreeable person—used as a generalized term of abuse. George called the bus driver a bastard. Offensive, vulgar term.

companion (n) one that keeps *company* with another, a friend. This word is used when Steinbeck is describing how Lennie and George look as they walk toward the pool of water.

current (n) the part of a fluid body (as in air or water) moving continuously in a certain direction, the swiftest part of a stream.

debris (n) the remains of something broken down or destroyed; an accumulation of fragments of rock. Steinbeck describes where the two men camp and that “*debris of the winter’s flooding*” (1st paragraph)

elaborate (v) to go into greater detail about something that has already been spoken about or described in broad terms. Lennie wants George to elaborate about their dream to win a piece of land. (adj.) thought out or organized with thoroughness and careful attention to detail.

foothill (n) a hill at the foot of higher hills or mountains.

irrigation (n) a system that supplies a piece of farmland with water by artificial means. An *irrigation ditch* is a canal where they store water prior to using it. Lennie and George had to hide in an irrigation ditch up in Weeds because Lennie had gotten into trouble.

mimicking (v) to imitate closely, to ridicule by imitation. “He took on the *elaborate* manner of little girls when they are mimicking one another.” (George)

morosely (v) in a gloomy or sad way. “George starred *morosely* into the fire.”

Discussion Questions

Answer these in your journal notebook and be prepared to discuss them in groups when you get back to class. Defend, give reasons, for your answers.

- 1) Steinbeck often describes Lennie with animal like characteristics throughout the book (e.g. “*Lennie dabbled his big paw in the water*”). What affect does this have on the reader? Would you agree that this dehumanizes Lennie?
- 2) In this chapter we learn that George is critical of his friend Lennie (e.g. “*You crazy son-of-a-bitch. You keep me in hot water all the time*”). What does this say about the relationship between George and Lennie?
- 3) We learn of a dream that George and Lennie share. What does this tell us of their past economic situation. Would you consider such a simple lifestyle a dream come true?
- 4) George says something about Lennie getting into trouble at the ranch. What predictions can you make based upon what you already know of these two men?

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General Introduction Questions

- 1) What is your title for this chapter? _____
- 2) What is your favorite quote or dialogue and who says it?

Characters

- 3) List the new characters that are introduced in this chapter and give 5-7 word descriptions of them. If their names are not clear use their nicknames and their job descriptions.

Example: The Stable Buck: black, crooked back, reads a lot.

- A) _____
- B) _____
- C) _____
- D) _____
- E) _____
- F) _____
- G) Candy's Dog: _____

Conflict

- 4) Do you see in conflict developing in this chapter? If so, what kind of conflict?

Hint: Linnie Small and Curley?

Themes

- 4) Several characters who are introduced in this chapter have handicaps or physical imperfections. What are these? How do these people compensate or deal with their problems? Be observing these developments throughout the book.

Comprehension

- 5) Why is the boss angry when he sees George and Linnie? _____
- 6) Why does George have to brag to everyone he meets about how strong Linnie is? _____
- 7) What did Linnie forget (which brought on a sound scolding from George)? _____

Vocabulary

- 8) In describing Curley's wife, the men call her a tart. What do you think this word means in this particular context? What other words do they use to describe the only female character in this story. Please keep a list.

General

- 1) What is *your title* for chapter three? _____
- 2) List a couple of your favorite quotes. _____

- 3) This chapter begins with a peacefulness of the end of a day's work and a game of horseshoes, but in contrast it ends with what event? _____
- 4) Early in this chapter George confides in Slim. Why do you think George confesses so much?

- 3) "*He ain't cuckoo,*" said George. "*He's dumb as hell, but he ain't crazy.*" What do you think this means? _____
- 5) "*He's a nice fella,*" said Slim. "*Guy don't need no sense to be a nice fella. Seems to me sometimes it jus' works the other way around.*" What does Slim mean by this? Do you agree? _____

- 6) What were the reasons that the men gave for putting Candy's dog down*? _____

- 7) Do you have *euphemisms* for this * in your language? Please list a few? _____

- 8) Do you agree with these reasons? Do you think it is mercy killing or do you think it was cruel to kill Candy's dog? _____

- 9) It seems that Candy lost more than a dog. What did he really lose with the death of his dog?

- 10) Both Slim and later Candy make a comparison of their own life and that of the dog's. What exactly do they say? What do they mean by these statements? _____

- 11) The ranch can be representative of society as a whole. Can this situation be generalized? The dog represents social disharmony. More specifically, what other things could the dog represent (using typology or metaphor)? _____

- 12) In the middle of this chapter Susy's Place (the cathouse, whorehouse) is described and then it is compared with its competition. What does this tell you about the characters of this book?

- 13) Who do George and Lennie share their dream with? _____
- 14) At this point, their dream is so close—almost within reach. They now have an actual place and the money is starting to come together. When they talk about it, there is much more description and much more animation. Have you ever had such a dream, that you worked long and hard for? How did it motivate you? _____

- 15) "*You're yella (yellow) as a frog belly.*" Carlson said to Curley. This is a simile so what does it mean? What do you think the color yellow represents? _____

- 16) How can George and Lennie be assured that Curley will not get them canned for the fight that Lennie had with Curley? _____
- 17) Slim said "*This punk sure had it comin' to him.*" What does this mean and what does it say about justice. _____

18) The following themes are in this chapter and developing in the story. Choose *one* theme and write three sentences of your opinion related this theme or write about it in your journal. *Themes: silence, death, euthanasia, society, solitude, companionship, dreams and ambitions, labor and management, property and ownership, independence and self-sufficiency.*

General

- 1) What is your title for this chapter? _____
- 2) In 34 words (only) describe this chapter, main events, development of characters and the themes. _____

- 3) The chapter begins with a description of Crooks living quarters. Why does Crooks live alone and not in the bunkhouse with the other guys? _____
- 4) Crooks says sharply, “*You got no right to come in my room. This here’s my room. Nobody got any right in my room.*” What does this say about public and private area (space) and the rules of society which govern such? _____

- 5) Why does Linnie and later Candy and Curly’s wife violate the unwritten rule about Crook’s space. _____
- 6) Crooks leaned forward over the edge of the bunk. “*I ain’t a southern Negro, he said. I was born right here in California.*” What do you think Crooks is saying about his heritage and inadvertently about his dignity? _____

- 7) What does Crooks say about Linnie’s ability to keep a secret? What does this say about companionship? _____

- 8) Isn’t it ironic that Linnie actually does try to tell about the secret and finally Candy helps him tell the secret to Crooks in this chapter? _____
- 9) “*A guy sets alone out here at night, maybe readin’ books or thinkin’, or stuff like that. Sometimes he gets thinking, an’ he got nothing to tell him what’s so an’ what ain’t so.*” (says Crooks). What does this say about solitude? Have you ever experienced self-delusion because of excessive loneliness or solitude? _____

- 10) In this chapter we get an interesting view of society as it is played out on the ranch. Curly’s wife, Crooks, Linnie, and Candy are the main characters of this chapter. Please put them in order of most powerful to least powerful. 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____
- 11) What does Curly’s wife mean by “*They left all the weak ones here . . .*” Do you think she include herself in this category? Why or why not? _____

- 12) Curly’s wife reveals something personal to the men out in Crook’s room? What is it? What does this tell you about her? How does this fit into other themes of the book? _____

- 13) Why does Curly’s wife threaten Crooks? _____
- 14) At the end of the chapter, why does Crooks say he is not interested in the farm anymore? What does his change of heart represent?

Of Mice and Men—Study Guide Chapter 5

- 1. What is your title for this chapter? _____
- 2. Please list your favorite quotes. _____

- 3. Why does Linnie compare the puppy with a mouse? “*You ain’t so little as mice. I didn’t bounce you hard.*” _____
- 4. What is Linnie’s emotional state after he finds that he has killed the puppy? _____
- 5. What does it mean when Linnie says “*God damn you , . . . [w]hy do you have to go and get killed?* Why isn’t he taking responsibility for the death of the puppy? _____
- 6. Why does Curley’s wife want to talk to Linnie? _____
- 7. What does she mean by the statement “*I could have made something of myself.*” _____
- 8. What does the word “*pitchers*” mean? Hint: it is a mispronunciation and if you read closely you can figure it out from the context. _____
- 9. Why do you think that Linnie likes *to pet nice things*? _____
- 10. Curley’s wife says “*But you’re a kind nice fella, Jus’ like a big baby. But a person can see kinda what you mean. . .*” What is she saying by this and what is the irony here in light of what happens in the next three paragraphs. _____
- 11. Do you see and significance in the scene of the dead puppy laying beside the dead woman? _____
- 12. What do you think it means . . . “*And the meanness and the planning and the discontent and the ache for attention were gone from her face[?] She was very pretty and simple, and her face was sweet and young.* What is the author contrasting here? What has the young wife of Curley achieved in death that she wasn’t able to achieve in life? _____
- 13. *As happens sometimes, a moment settled and hovered and remained for much more than a moment.* What does it mean? Can you describe any moment in your life that was like this? It need not be so traumatic or violent, but just a scene that you can describe from your life where it felt like the movie camera was put on *pause* or at least *slow motion*—*very slow motion.* _____
- 14. At such a tragic moment why is Candy concerned with the shared dream of the little house? Why does he ask George the question at such a moment? _____
- 15. George said . . . *Linnie never done it in meanness . . . All the time he done bad things, but he never done one of ‘em mean.* What does this say about George’s sense of justice _____

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 in relation to offense, guilt, intent? What do you think? Should someone be held guilty
 for something that they did not intend to do? Or less guilty at least? _____

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- 1) What is your title for this chapter? _____
- 2) Please list your favorite quotes. _____

- 3) Again the chapter opens with a peaceful scene much like in the first chapter of the book. How
 is nature used to set the mood. Describe the scene and setting in 6-8 words.

- 4) What are the other events that happen in this final chapter that also happened in the first
 chapter? _____
- 5) Lennie has a conversation with himself (talking to himself), a scolding by his Aunt Clara and
 a putdown by a giant rabbit. Why do you think Aunt Clara’s voice comes to him now to scold
 him? What is Lennie’s mental state? Why does the rabbit foretell evil intent? _____
- 6) When George arrives and they play the little game of “Tell-me-like-you-done-before” what is
 different about this time? _____
- 7) Why doesn’t Lennie realize that George is about to shoot him? _____
- 8) What are George’s last words to Lennie: his parting words? _____
- 9) The last line of the book is Carlson saying, “Now what the hell ya suppose is eating them two
 guys?” What do you think he means by this? _____

Discussion Questions

- A) Did George do the right thing? How will he feel from now on without Lennie?
- B) What were George’s other options?
- C) What do you think George will do next?
- D) Can you find the foreshadowing of this final event from earlier chapters?
- E) What are the greater themes that come through this story?
- F) What is the significance of the title of this book?

Literary Allusions

Read *To a Mouse, on Turning Her Up in Her nest, With the Plough* by Robert Burns.

- A) “*Ode to a Mouse*”?
- B) What is the story of the mouse in *What does the title OF Mice and Men mean? Why did the writer choose this for his title?*
- C) “The best laid plans of mice and men, How oft they go awry” How could this line be applied to other situations?
- D) Why do you think mice are portrayed as tragic figures in this poem and contrast this with the comic mouse of modern day entertainment?

To a Mouse BY **ROBERT BURNS**

On Turning up in Her Nest with the Plough, November, 1785

Wee, sleeket, cowran, tim'rous beastie,
O, what a panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na start awa sae hasty,
 Wi' bickerin brattle!
I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee
 Wi' murd'ring pattle!

I'm truly sorry Man's dominion
Has broken Nature's social union,
An' justifies that ill opinion,
 Which makes thee startle,
At me, thy poor, earth-born companion,
 An' fellow-mortal!

I doubt na, whyles, but thou may thieve;
What then? poor beastie, thou maun live!
A daimen-icker in a thrave
 'S a sma' request:
I'll get a blessin wi' the lave,
 An' never miss 't!

Thy wee-bit housie, too, in ruin!
It's silly wa's the win's are strewin!
An' naething, now, to big a new ane,
 O' foggage green!
An' bleak December's winds ensuin,
 Baith snell an' keen!

Thou saw the fields laid bare an' waste,
An' weary Winter comin fast,
An' cozie here, beneath the blast,
 Thou thought to dwell,
Till crash! the cruel coulter past
 Out thro' thy cell.

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That wee-bit heap o' leaves an' stibble
Has cost thee monie a weary nibble!
Now thou's turn'd out, for a' thy trouble,
 But house or hald,
To thole the Winter's sleety dribble,
 An' cranreuch cauld!

But Mousie, thou art no thy-lane,
In proving foresight may be vain:
The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men
 Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
 For promis'd joy!

Still, thou art blest, compar'd wi' me!
The present only toucheth thee:
But Och! I backward cast my e'e,
 On prospects drear!
An' forward tho' I canna see,
 I guess an' fear!