

## **Chapter 1**

1. **Imagery:** Notice the descriptive language Steinbeck uses to paint a picture of the setting at the beginning of the novella. Choose 2 lines which stand out as especially vivid and rewrite them below. Quote properly.

Example: “The water is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the yellow sands in the sunlight before reaching the narrow pool” (1).

Example 1:

Example 2:

1. **Characterization:** List the physical traits of the first man (George) and the second (Lennie) on page 2.

**A. George**

**B. Lennie**

2. Interpret George and Lennie’s relationship, based on their conversations on page 3-8. Using 2 pieces of evidence from the text, explain your interpretation of their relationship.

**Text Connection-** Agree or disagree and explain: “Whatever we ain’t got, that’s what you want” (11).

**Characterization:** What mistake did Lennie make in the past that made them have to run away?

**Theme:** “Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don’t belong no place. They come to a ranch an’ work up a stake and then they go into town and blow their stake, and the first thing you know they’re pounding in’ their tail on some other ranch. They ain’t got nothing to look ahead to.... With us it ain’t like that. We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us” (13-14).

Summarize, in your own words, what George is saying here. Do you agree or disagree? What is revealed about the “needs” that are met for George and Lennie?

**Theme:** What dream do George and Lennie rely on to overcome hardships?

## **Chapter 2**

1. **Plot:** Why is the boss upset at George and Lennie when he meets them? What excuse does George give to the boss?

2. **Characterization:** Describe the conversation between George, Lennie, and the boss. What does George tell the boss about Lennie?

3. List several words which describe the old man's dog.

4. **Characterization:** What are three things that the old man tells us about Curley?

5. **Idiom** “Yeah? Married two weeks and got the eye? Maybe that’s why Curley’s pants is full of ants (28).”

The underlined portion of the above quote is an idiom, or expression that has its own meaning past the literal meaning. What does this idiom actually mean?

6. **Foreshadowing:** Using what we know about George and Curley already, what conflict might occur between the two of them? What might cause the conflict?  
“Look, Lennie! This here ain’t no setup. I’m scared. You gonna have trouble with that Curley guy. I seen that kind before. He was kinda feelin’ you out. He figres he’s got you scared and he’s gonna take a sock at you the first chance he gets” (29).

7. **Plot:** Where does George instruct Lennie to go in the event of a trouble?

8. **Characterization:** Describe Curley’s wife:

9. **Characterization:** Describe Slim:

10. **Plot:** What is Lennie excited about at the end of chapter 2?

### **Chapter 3**

1. “Hardly none of the guys ever travel together. I hardly never seen two guys travel together. You know how the hands are, they just come in and get their bunk and work a month, and then they quit and go out alone. Never seem to give a damn about nobody” (39).

What does this quote reveal about men seeking work during the 1930’s Great Depression?

2. **Plot:** How did George and Lennie meet?
3. **Characterization:** Compare how George treated Lennie in the past to how you perceive society to treat those with handicaps. Your response must first explain how George treated Lennie.
4. Agree/ Disagree, then explain. “Take a real smart guy and he and he ain’t hardly ever a nice fella” (40).
5. What do we learn about the girl in the red dress from Weed—what does she claim happened to her? Why do George and Lennie hide?
6. **Interpretation:** What does Carlson suggest to Candy? Why does he make this suggestion? Do you agree with Carlson? Explain.





5. **Theme:** “I seen hundreds of men come by on the road an’ on the ranches, with their bindles on their back an’ that same damn thing in their heads. Hundreds of them. They come, an’ they quit an’ go on; an’ ever damn one of ‘ems got a piece of land in his head.

To be *‘pessimistic’* is to see the worst aspect of things or believe the worst will happen. Is Crooks a pessimist, or is he realistic? Is there an optimist (one who has a positive outlook on life) in the novel?

6. **Characterization:** How does Crooks react to having Candy in his room? What does this reveal about him?

7. Why does Curley’s wife enter the barn? What do you make of her promiscuity—why might she be that way?

8. **Theme:** Why does Crooks change his mind about wanting to join Candy, George, and Lennie in moving away?



## **Chapter 5**

1. **Figurative Language:** Steinbeck uses both a simile and personification.

Quote examples.

- Simile:

- Personification:

2. Find an example of a descriptive sound and quote it.

3. **Plot:** What happens that upsets Lennie? What is he afraid will happen?

4. What is revealed about Curley's wife's inner feelings? Is she satisfied with how her life has turned out? **Use a quote to support your answer.**

5. **Figurative Language:** Quote the simile used on page 91.

6. **Interpret:** “For the first time Lennie became conscious of the outside”. Although Steinbeck is literally saying that Lennie hears the other ranchers, what else could this be commenting on?

7. How has Curley’s wife’s appearance changed?

8. **Theme:** George said softly“--- U think I knowed from the very first. I think I knowed we’d never do her. He usta like to hear about it so much I got to thinking maybe we would.”

What is George talking about here? What is he admitting?

Why is imprisonment not an option?

Who do you think has Carlson’s gun?

**Prediction** What do you predict is Lennie’s fate?

**Chapter 6**

1. **Figurative Language:** Quote an example of personification from page 99.
2. Quote a descriptive sentence. Circle words which make this descriptive.
3. **Plot:** What does Lennie remember to do? Is this surprising to you? Explain why/why not.
4. What two “voices” does Lennie hear? Whose voice is he truly hearing, in your opinion? Why?
5. **Theme:** What message is repeated that we have previously read? Why does George repeat himself here?
6. What does George do? Why does he do it?
7. What lie does George tell the others?