

Of Mice and Men Independent Novel Unit

Directions: For each chapter define the allusions and references, describe the characters, and then answer the questions. All answers **MUST** be in complete sentences and detailed. All work must be done on looseleaf -- **DO NOT** try to cram your answers onto this packet. The packet is due April 27. It counts as a formal assessment. The test will be Tuesday, May 1. We will have several class discussions and activities between, so be prepared to participate.

Chapter 1 Study Guide

I. Allusions & References

Soledad Salinas River Weed Bindle Work cards

II. Characters

George Lenny Aunt Clara

III. QUESTIONS

1. What is the setting of the novella? Why does Steinbeck chose to set the novel in this time and place?
2. Where did the bus drop the two men off? What does this say about the way society views men like George and Lennie?
3. What happens with the mouse? Describe the importance of the mouse to Lennie. What do the mice symbolize to Lennie?
4. Where are George and Lennie going? Where did they coming from?
5. When they get to where they are going, what does George tell Lennie to do?
7. What does George imply happened in Weed with the girl?
8. What dream do George and Lennie share?
9. Where does George tell Lennie to go if he gets in trouble? What literary device is this?
10. Give one theme of the novel so far. Support your theme with specific examples from the chapter.

IV. Written response: Write at least 2 paragraphs with specific details to answer the following question. Explain the relationship that exists between George and Lennie based on Chapter 1 of the book.

Chapter 2 Study Guide

I. Allusions & References

Swamper Ticking Stable buck Skinner Buck barley
Pants rabbit Graybacks

II. Characters

Candy Crooks Curly Curley's wife Slim Carlson

III. QUESTIONS

1. Using the author's description of the bunkhouse, what can you infer about the life of men like George and Lennie?
2. What does George find in the box by his bed and what does he assume?
3. Describe the fight between the "stable buck" and Smitty. What does this say about how society viewed men like Crooks?
4. What is Lennie's last name and why is this ironic?
5. What does the boss suspect George of doing to Lennie? What makes him think this?
6. What reason does George give for taking care of Lennie?
7. What does Candy tell George about Curley's left hand?
8. Why does Curley's wife say she came into the bunkhouse? What is her real motivation? How does Slim greet her and what does that say about him compared to the way the other men act around her?
9. What did Slim do to four of his pups? Why?
10. How does Steinbeck's use of diction add to the novella?

IV. Written response: Write at least a paragraph using specific details to answer the following question. Give one theme of the novel so far. Support your theme with specific examples from the chapter.

Chapter 3 Study Guide

I. Allusions & References

Luger

II. Questions

1. How did George used to treat Lennie, and what made him change?
2. Explain why George and Lennie had to high-tail it out of Weed. How did they escape?
3. According to Slim, is Lennie mean? What kind of guy is mean, according to Slim?
4. What is the conflict between Carlson and Candy? What's Carlson's argument for euthanizing the dog? How does Slim weigh in on it? Beyond losing his friend, what does the incident reveal to Candy about himself and humanity?
5. Who wants to "roll up a stake" with George and Lennie and what does that mean? How does George respond?
6. Explain what sparks the fight between Curley and Lennie? What's the outcome?
7. How does Slim coerce Curley into lying about his hand and why?

III. Written response: Write at least two paragraphs with specific details to answer the following question.

Many of the characters have disabilities. Pick two characters and explain what his or her disability is. How does this impact the character and the way the character interacts with others in the novel?

Chapter 4 Study Guide

I. Questions

1. What sets Crooks apart from the other workers? What does this say about him?
2. Why did Lennie come into the barn, and how does Crooks react to Lennie when he comes to his room?
3. Where is George?
4. What do we learn about Crooks' family?
5. Despite George's warnings not to talk about the ranch, why does Lennie confide in Crooks? What is Crook's reaction/opinion of the plan?
6. About what did Candy want to talk to Lennie?
7. What do we learn about Curley's wife?
8. Before Curley's wife leaves, what does she notice about Lennie?
9. What does Curley's wife say she could have done to Crooks and why does she say it?
10. What is the last thing Crooks says to Candy?

II. Written response: Write at least 2 paragraphs with specific details to answer the following question.

How is the theme of loneliness developed in this chapter? Incorporate at least two characters' experiences in your answer.

Chapter 5 Study Guide

I. Questions

1. What is the setting at the beginning of chapter 5?
2. What is Lennie doing in the barn by himself? Why does Lennie think that he might not get to tend the rabbits? What plan does he have to avoid getting in trouble?
3. Analyze the encounter between Lennie and Curley's wife in the barn? Why is she there? How does he feel about her visit?
4. According to Curley's wife, why she didn't get into show business? What reasons can we infer why Curley's wife married him?
5. What did Lennie lose that he wishes he had now?
6. What did Lennie do to Curley's wife? Who finds her?
7. What does Candy hopefully ask George?

8. What favor does George ask of Candy?

9. What does Carlson think happened to his Luger? What can we infer happened to the gun?

II. Written response: Write at least two paragraphs with specific details to answer the following question.

Discuss the rabbits. Historically, why did people raise rabbits? Why does Lennie want to have rabbits on the ranch? Why does George want to raise rabbits? What do the rabbits symbolize in the novel?

Chapter 6 Study Guide

I. Questions

1. Where is Lennie hiding and why?

2. What does the giant rabbit symbolize, and what does the conversation tell us about Lennie's thoughts and fears?

3. With whom does Lennie have his second imaginary conversation?

4. How does Lennie expect George to respond to the situation? How is George's response different and why is this significant?

5. Why does George tell Lennie the story? What happens to Lennie?

6. Explain how the author lets the reader know that George is deeply saddened by what he has to do.

7. What lie does George tell Carlson?

8. Who is the only character besides George who knows what went down? How do you know?

II. Written response: Write at least two paragraphs to answer the following question.

Explain whether you think George was justified in what he did to Lennie. Use specific details to support your answer.