**Of Mice and Men**: Chapter 1 Reading and Study Guide

**Characters**

Lennie:

George:

Aunt Clara:

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel.

- contemplated
- recumbent
- brusquely
- junctures
- mottled
- stilted
- morosely
- imperiously
- relish

II. Allusions and Idioms:

Allusions: Historical references

- Soledad
- Salinas River
- Weed
- work cards

Idioms: Figures of speech; expressions used by people in a certain region or time period.

- watchin’ that blackboard
- blow their stake
- bindle
- blowin’ in our jack
bustin’ a gut

dungle-up

live off that fatta the lan’

III. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the novel.

Novella

Plot chart

Exposition

Setting

What is the setting of this novel?

Point of view

From what point of view is the story told?

foreshadowing

IV. QUESTIONS: answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.

1. What words or phrases does the narrator use to describe Lennie?

2. How does this show Lennie’s disability?

3. Why did Lennie want to keep the dead mouse?

4. Who always gave Lennie mice? Why did this person stop giving him mice?

5. Quote one sentence from the book that you feel may be an example of foreshadowing. What do you think is being foreshadowed? Cite this appropriately using parenthetical citations and the page number.
6. What problem did Lennie and George have in Weed?

7. Why does George get so angry with Lennie? How does he envision life without Lennie?

8. Why does Lennie like to hear George tell the story of their plans, even though he knows it by heart himself?

9. Why does George like telling the story?

10. At the end of Chapter 1, what does George tell Lennie to remember? What might this foreshadow?

V. Paragraph: write a paragraph answer to the following question. Use quotes to support your answer.

20. Explain the relationship that exists between George and Lennie based on Chapter 1 of the book. Cite examples from the story using parenthetical citations and the page number.
Of Mice and Men: Chapter 2 Reading and Study Guide

Characters
Candy
Whitey
Boss
Slim
Curley
Crooks
Carlson

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel.

mollified
pugnacious
ominously
slough
plaintively
brittle
complacently
tick
stable buck
jerkline skinner
cesspool
derogatory
skeptically
liniment
apprehensive
tart

II. Idioms
bum steer
canned
plug himself up for a fighter
picking scraps
poke
III. LITERARY TERMS: Define and apply each term to a specific example in the novella.

- dialect

- protagonists

- verbal irony

- direct characterization

- indirect characterization

IV. QUESTIONS: answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.

1. According to the old man, why was the boss mad at George and Lennie?

2. What does George find in the box by his bed and what does he assume?

3. Describe the “stable buck.” What physical attributes does he have? What does the boss use him for?

4. Describe the fight between the “stable buck” and Smitty.

5. What is Lennie’s last name? Why is it an example of verbal irony?

6. What does the boss suspect George of doing to Lennie? What makes him think this?

7. What reason does George give for taking care of Lennie?

8. What is George’s last name?

9. Describe Curley and his actions? How might these behaviors be typical of a small man working on a ranch?

10. What does the swamper tell George about Curley’s left hand?

11. Describe Curley’s wife. Why does George call her “tart”?

12. Why does she come into the bunkhouse?

13. Describe Slim. What is his job on the ranch? What are some of his character traits?
14. What did Slim do to four of his pups? Why?

15. What does Lennie want George to ask Slim?

IV. Reader Response.

16. Draw a picture of the bunkhouse. Be sure to include specific details. Include 3 quotes from the text that support your drawing and cite them correctly.
Of Mice and Men: Chapter 3 Reading and Study Guide

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel.

- derision
- receptive
- reprehensible
- scuttled
- euchre
- bemused
- reverently

II. Allusions and historical references:

Allusions:
- Luger (ˈlʊɡər)
- Golden Gloves
- San Quentin

Idioms:
- Hoosegow
- roll up a stake
- wing-ding
- rabbits in
- flat bust
- loo loo
- yella jackets in his drawers
- flop

III. LITERARY TERMS: Apply each term to the novel.

- theme (so far in the novel)
- imagery
- conflict
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General type</th>
<th>Specific example from story</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>External: Man vs. Man</td>
<td>__________________ vs. _____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man vs. Nature</td>
<td>__________________ vs. _____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man vs. Society</td>
<td>__________________ vs. _____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal: Man vs. Self</td>
<td>__________________ vs. _____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IV. QUESTIONS:** answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.

1. Why do you think George is able to confide in Slim? What is it about Slim’s personality that “invites confidence”?
2. How did George and Lennie start traveling together?
3. George says that at one time, he played jokes on Lennie. Why did he stop doing that?
4. According to George, what happens to men who travel around alone, working the ranches?
6. In what way is Lennie like a small child? Give a specific example from the story.
7. Why does Carlson want to kill Candy’s dog?
8. What is the mood in the bunkhouse after Carlson leaves with the dog? How does Steinbeck create this mood?
9. Why does George now talk about their dream farm in front of Candy?
10. How can Candy help with their dream? Why does he want to be included? Be specific.
11. Which quote from the book shows Candy’s one regret about the death of his dog?
13. Speculate: Why does Curley agree to keep quiet about what really happened?
14. Venn Diagram: Complete the diagram then write a well-supported paragraph explaining how the relationship between Candy and his dog is similar to the relationship between George and Lennie.

Candy and his dog—describe the relationship

Lennie and George—describe the relationship

Similarities of relationships

Paragraph: write a well-supported paragraph explaining how the relationship between Candy and his dog is similar to the relationship between George and Lennie.
Of Mice and Men: Chapter 4 Reading and Study Guide

Characters:

Crooks

Curley’s wife

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel.

- aloof
- appreciation
- apprehension
- indignation

II. Allusions & Idioms

Allusions:
- roll your hoop

Idioms:
- booby hatch
- put me in pitchers
- strung up on a tree
- sellin' me

III. QUESTIONS: answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.

1. Why does Crooks have more possessions than the other ranch hands?

2. What is Crooks doing at the beginning of Chapter 4?

3. According to Crooks, why isn’t he allowed in the bunkhouse? Why doesn’t he want Lennie in his room?

4. Why does Crooks first ridicule George and Lennie’s plan to get their own farm? Why do you think he seems to enjoy scaring Lennie?

5. Crooks later explains why being alone is no good. What does he say happens to a man who spends too much time alone?
6. After Candy joins Crooks and Lennie in Crooks’ room, the book says “It was difficult for Crooks to conceal his pleasure with anger” (82). Why was Crooks happy? Why did he feel he needed to cover up his pleasure?

7. What do Curley’s wife and Crooks have in common?

8. When the three men stand up to Curley’s wife, how is she able to come between them?

9. How does Curley’s wife feel about the fact that his hand was injured?

10. How does Chapter 4 end? Why does it end this way?

V. **Extended Response:** write a paragraph answer to the following questions. Use quotes from the book to support your answer.

11. Find at least 4 quotes from the story so far that relate to the theme of loneliness. Write the quote, who said it, and the page you found it on. **Example:** George said, “It ain’t so funny, him an’ me goin’ aroun’ together” (39).

12. Write a paragraph that explains how the theme of loneliness is developed. Think about the characters Lennie, Crooks, Candy, and Curley’s wife. Use at least TWO of your quotes in your paragraph and remember to cite the quotes. Make sure you incorporate the quote into the paragraph as a method of support.
Of Mice and Men: Chapter 5 & 6 Reading and Study Guide

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel.

wisps

writhed

belligerently

monotonous

woodenly

II. LITERARY TERMS: Provide an example from the novel.

Archetype

Symbolism

Tone

Round character

Flat character

Static character

Dynamic character

III. QUESTIONS: answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.

Chapter 5
1. What is the setting of this chapter?

2. What happened to Lennie’s puppy?

3. What are Lennie’s reactions?

4. Why does Lennie think that he might not get to tend the rabbits?

5. According to Curley’s wife, how come she didn’t get into show business? What were her dreams?

6. How did she meet Curley, and how does she really feel about him?
7. Why does Curley’s wife feel she can confide in Lennie?

8. Explain in detail what happens to Curley’s wife.

9. What is ironic about Lennie taking the pup with him when he leaves?

10. What does George hope can happen to Lennie? What does Candy say will happen to him?

11. While George is "gone" and he is alone with Curley's wife, what is Candy's reaction to her death? Why does he react this way?

12. How has George changed when he returns to the barn?

13. What is Curley’s reaction to his wife’s death? Did his reaction surprise you? Why or why not?

14. What do you predict will happen at the end of the story? Why do you predict this?

15. What favor does George ask of Candy?

16. What does Carlson think happened to his Luger?

Chapter 6

17. Where is Lennie hiding?

18. What happens to the water snake in the second paragraph of the chapter? What might this foreshadow?

19. How does this establish the tone?

20. In chapter 6, readers “see” into Lennie’s head. Why do you think Steinbeck gives readers a glimpse of Lennie’s thoughts?

21. What does George mean when he says “It don’t make no difference” when Lennie tells George he’s done another bad thing?

22. Why does George keep stopping and needing Lennie to prompt him to go on with the story?

23. What does George want Lennie to know?

24. How does Slim console George at the end of the story?
25. **Application:** What is naturalism as it pertains to literature? Explain how this work is naturalistic work.

26. **Application:** What is Steinbeck’s writing style and how does this contribute to the novel as a whole?
27. **Paragraph:** write an argumentative paragraph on the topic below. For an argumentative piece, you must take a position/side, examine why your side is the most appropriate, consider an alternative but explain why this is not an appropriate alternative, and ultimately state why your position is the best. Use quotes from the book to support your answer.  
**Do NOT begin your paragraph with the words “yes” or “no.”** You need to begin your paragraph with a complete thought/statement which is your statement of position on the topic.

Was George justified in what he did to Lennie?

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**Expository Writing**

1. Character Analysis---archetypes

2. Compare ---“To a Mouse” to *Of Mice and Men*. Consider the question, why would this poem have inspired the novelette? What parts of the poem represent what parts of the novel?

3. Using the ideas of E. B. White’s “Security” apply them to *Of Mice and Men*