

Of Mice and Men

Reading Notes: Chapter One (pgs. 1–16)

Introduction While reading *Of Mice and Men*, we will pause to make some observations. These observations are intended to improve your ability to see and interpret key ideas and events in the story. Write your responses to these questions on a separate sheet of paper *as you read*. It's fine to type your responses if you prefer. Responses to each question should be thorough, not just a few words or single sentence.

1. Generate a list of *five* words that describe Lenny. After making the list, choose the *one* word you think *best* describes him, then explain why, using examples from the text to support and illustrate your idea.
2. Generate a list of *five* words that describe George. After making the list, choose the *one* word you think *best* describes him, then explain why, using examples from the text to support and illustrate your idea.
3. Complete the following sentence: *The relationship between George and Lenny is like . . .* After you complete the sentence, explain why their relationship is like *x*, then provide examples to support and illustrate your idea. Explain how these examples relate to the main idea.
4. Speculate about what happened in Weed that caused them to have to leave; and predict what you think will happen in this story based on what happened before. What details do you base your prediction on?
5. Develop two test questions based on the first chapter:
 - a. **Right There (Literal) Question:** This is a factual question that you can answer by pointing “right there” on the page to find the answer. An example from *The Odyssey* would be, “What test did Odysseus pass that the suitors could not?” (Answer: Stringing his bow and shooting the arrow through a row of ax handles.)
 - b. **Between the Lines (Inferential) Question:** This question is more complex. The answer cannot be pointed to on the page but must be *inferred* from other details in the story. An example from *The Odyssey* would be, “How would you characterize the relationship between Odysseus and his men?”