

Of Mice and Men Study Guide Questions

Name _____

Writing Focus/English 11
Chapter Three (pages 38-65)

1. Describe the relationship between George, Lennie and Slim. What does Slim provide for each of them?
2. Why does George no longer play jokes on Lennie?
3. Why does Carlson want to shoot Candy's dog? Why doesn't Candy agree with his reasons? Why do you think Candy finally relents? (Literary Terms: theme, symbolism)
4. Why is Candy so anxious to join George and Lennie in their plans for the future?
5. What does Candy tell George he should have done for his dog? What is his regret? Use at least one direct quote from the novel in your response.
6. Why are Curley and Slim in conflict? How does Lennie get involved? Why does Lennie finally release Curley? (Literary Terms: foreshadowing, conflict)
7. How does Slim prevent Curley from getting Lennie fired?
8. Choose one passage from the chapter that you feel is important. Copy the passage below (including page number) and defend your choice. Identify any literary terms in the passage.

Idioms

crack: A crack refers to an attempt or a try. In this instance, a crack means one session of sexual intercourse with a prostitute.

flat bust: completely broke; without any money

flop: sexual intercourse with a prostitute

goo-goos: silly young men; idiots; perhaps those who are a little lovestruck

hoosegow: jail

looloo: a sexy woman

on the county: on welfare; on public relief

punk: an insignificant person; someone of no importance

rabbits in: jumps in

roll up a stake: save up some money

scram: leave, usually in a hurry

set on the trigger: Someone set on the trigger is on the verge of causing (just about to cause) trouble.

start a party out to lynch: To lynch is to murder someone, usually by hanging, without following a legal procedure. A lynch party is a mob of people who take the law in their own hands and are determined to illegally kill someone. According to George, some men in the town of Weed wanted to capture Lennie and kill him.

throw a litter: give birth. A litter is the young of an animal that were born at the same time.

wing-ding: a terrific person; someone to be admired

yella: yellow; a coward

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Chapter Four (pages 66-83)

Use a **concrete detail (specific evidence)** from the chapter to answer each question. Give as much information as possible.

1. Provide a physical description of Crooks. Describe Crooks' room. What does this setting tell the reader about Crooks? (Literary Term: theme)
2. What is Crooks' immediate reaction to Lennie's presence in his room? Why is he then comfortable talking to Lennie?
3. How and why does Crooks torment Lennie? Why does he end the torture?
4. According to Crooks, what happens to a guy if he is alone too much?
5. What service does Crooks offer in exchange for a place on the farm? Why does he later tell Candy to forget about it?
6. Analyze the meaning of the following line: "Crooks had retired into the terrible protective dignity of the negro."
7. Curley's wife is at the bottom of the social ladder at the ranch. How does she exert the little power she *does* have?

8. What do the events in this chapter reveal about dreams?
Consider opportunities, obstacles and "dreams deferred".
9. For each of the following characters, choose a line or two from the chapter to show that he/she is lonely or isolated.
- Crooks
 - Lennie
 - Curley's wife
 - Candy

Idioms

booby hatch: insane asylum; a place designed to house people who are mentally unstable

corn: whiskey made from corn

cover 'im up: protect him; make excuses for him; cover up for him

doped out: figured out

put me in pitchers: put me in pictures; gotten me a job as an actress in the movies (motion pictures)

take you out in a box: in this case, the box is a coffin. Crooks is telling Candy that the old man will remain where he is until he dies.

took a powder: left

went with shows: been an entertainer on the stage.

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Writing Focus/English 11
Chapter Five (pages 83-98)

Use a **concrete detail (specific evidence)** from the chapter to answer each question. Give as much information as possible.

1. At the opening of the chapter, why is Lennie so distressed?
2. What information does Curley's wife share with Lennie? Where is Lennie's attention focused?
3. After Lennie silences Curley's wife, how is it sadly ironic that he is still concerned with hiding the puppy?
4. What do George and Candy realize about their plan? What does George say he has always known?
5. What plan do Candy and George develop to "tell the guys"? Why does George feel this is necessary? Why is this a significant turning point in the relationship between George and Lennie?
6. At the bottom of page 95, Candy is expressing his anger. Who is he angry with? Is this justified?
7. Who is most upset by Curley's wife's death?

8. What is discovered missing from the bunkhouse?

9. Choose one passage from the chapter that you feel is important. Copy the passage below (including page number) and defend your choice. Identify any literary terms in the passage.

Idioms

we'd never do her: "her," in this case, refers to their plan to own a farm. George is saying that he thinks they all knew they would never really accomplish their dream of living on their own place.

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Chapter Six (pages 99-107)

Use a **concrete detail (specific evidence)** from the chapter to answer each question. Give as much information as possible.

1. How is the opening of this chapter similar to the opening of the first chapter of the novel? (literary term: mood)
2. How does Lennie's past come back to visit him?
3. How does Lennie's greatest dream come to taunt him?
4. Why does George take the time to tell Lennie "how it's gonna be" one more time?
5. Are George's actions justified? Why or why not?

6. How do the men behave when they arrive at the scene? What does Slim say?
7. Now that you have completed the novel, what examples of foreshadowing do you see?
8. Reflect on the novel as a whole. What attitudes (or biases) seem ordinary at the time this novel is set that are not acceptable in our society today? Provide textual evidence.
9. Choose just **one line** that you think is significant. Justify your choice.