

Study Questions for Of Mice and Men. Write your answers in your journal for *every* chapter (not just the chapter you are presenting)! Most questions can be answered with a few sentences, but don't forget quotes and page numbers. And remember to record vocabulary words!



Chapter 2:

1. What inferences can you make about the lives of the farm workers based on the description of the bunkhouse where they live? Use textual support to back up your inferences.
2. What three lies does George tell the boss and what is a possible reason for his telling each?
3. Offer two theories about why Curley feels the need to act aggressively and assert himself in the manner that he does.
4. What is Candy's opinion of Curley's wife?
5. Why does Lennie tell George, "I don't like this place. I wanna get outa here"? Does he have a good reason for feeling this way, or is he being irrational?

Chapter 3:

1. How are George and Lennie different from the other ranch hands?
2. What happened to George and Lennie back in Weed, and what precautions are they taking to make sure that the same thing does not happen again?
3. How is life on George and Lennie's dream ranch different from life on the real ranch?
4. What are the pros and cons for killing Candy's dog from the various characters' points of view? What is the significance of this event?
5. What is Curley upset about? Why does he fight with Lennie?

Chapter 4:

1. How does Crooks' room contrast with those of the other ranchers? What does his room tell you about him?
2. Who visits Crooks' room? What do these people share in common?
3. Why does Crooks feel the need to torture Lennie with the thought that George may not return to the ranch?

4. Why is the dream of owning a ranch so important to Candy?
5. In what ways is Curley's wife *powerful*? In what ways is she *powerless*?

Chapter 5:

1. What do we find out about Curley's wife and why she ended up marrying Curley? Is she happy?
2. How does Curley's wife die?
3. Is Candy's anger towards Curley's wife justified? Explain your response.
4. What does George decide to do when he discovers what happened?
5. Who really steals Carlson's Luger (gun)?
6. Why do you think Curley is really so angry?

Chapter 6:

1. Where does Lennie return to at the end of the book?
2. What is one of the visions or dreams Lennie has while he waits for George? Why do you think Steinbeck includes this bizarre scene at this point in the novel?
3. Why does Lennie want George to "give [him] hell" and why is George reluctant to do so?
4. Does George do the right thing with regard to Lennie at the end of the novel? If yes, explain why. If no, explain what George should have done instead, and consider what the consequences might have been.
5. How does Slim treat George at the end of the book? Why does he treat him in this way?