

Of Mice and Men- Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1

1. Based on what you have learned in the first chapter, describe Lennie.
2. Based on what you have learned in the first chapter, describe George.
3. Why were George and Lennie run out of Weed?
4. What things does Lennie do and say that make him like a child?
5. Do you feel that George would really like Lennie to go? Explain your answer.
6. What is the meaning of the following passage “An ‘live off the fatta the land’”?
7. Where does George tell Lennie to hide if he gets in trouble? What does this tell us about Georges’ expectations of Lennie?
8. Describe the dream that George and Lennie share. How is this dream important to each man individually?
9. According to George, how are he and Lennie different from other workers? Why does he feel the need to repeat this?

Chapter 2

1. Who greeted George and Lennie at the bunkhouse?
2. What unusual habits did Whitney have? Why would this be considered unusual?
3. Why does George answer all the questions directed to Lennie? Do you think he is going about it the best way possible? Explain.
4. How does the boss react to George’s friendship with Lennie?
5. What excuse does George give for Lennie’s slowness?
6. How does Curley react to Lennie’s silence?
7. Describe Curley’s character. What does he think about Lennie and George travelling together?
8. What does the swamper mean by the statement: “Curley’s pretty handy”?
9. What uneasy feeling does George have about Curley’s wife?

Chapter 3

1. Who is Slim?
2. What kind act does Slim do for Lennie?
3. How does Slim react to Lennie and George’s travelling together?
4. Why do you think George told Slim about what happened in Weed?
5. According to George, how did he end up travelling with Lennie?
6. What is the significance of the letter Whit reads from the Western Magazine?
7. Describe Candy’s dog from Carlson’s point of view. What does this reveal about Carlson’s character?
8. What role does Candy play in helping George and Lennie try to buy land?
9. Why does Curley attack Lennie? What happens to Curley? How does Lennie feel after the event?

Chapter 4

1. Why is Crooks jealous of Lennie's friendship with George?
2. What is Crooks attitude towards Lennie when Lennie comes to visit? How does this attitude enlighten the reader about Crooks character?
3. From the description of his room, what can the reader assume about Crooks?
4. How does Crooks fill his loneliness?
5. Identify at least five examples of dialogue which makes Curley's wife an unsympathetic character.
6. How does Crooks feel about Lennie's dream of "living off the fatta the lan"?
7. Explain the following: "Crooks seemed to come slowly out of the layers of protection he had put on".
8. Why does Curley's wife interrupt Crooks, Candy, and Lennie?
9. Does Curley's wife really know what happened to his hand? What is her reaction to the incident?

Chapter 5

1. What is the dominant impression of the first three paragraphs?
2. Why does the puppy's death not surprise the reader. What insight does the reader receive about Lennie in this Chapter?
3. Why is he angry with the puppy?
4. When Lennie does not want to talk to Curley's wife, how does she react? What does this say about her situation?
5. What does she ask Lennie to do?
6. List the chain of events that occur between Lennie and Curley's wife leading up to her murder? Discuss the relative guilt or innocence of Lennie as a murderer.
7. How does the author alter our view of Curley's wife?
8. Whom does Candy blame for the murder? Why is he so angry at what has happened?
9. Why does George leave and then return to the scene of the crime with the others? Is he being selfish?
10. Who does Carlson think has stolen his Luger pistol?

Chapter 6

1. What mood is created by the description at the beginning of Chapter 6?
2. Where does Lennie hide?
3. Lennie has an unusual hallucination. Describe it. What is the significance of this dream.
4. How do the characters in Lennie's dream treat him?
5. What is George going to do to Lennie? How does he do it?
6. Why did George lie to the others about what really happened?
7. Is George's murder of Lennie a merciful act? Explain. What might have been another alternative?
8. What is the significance of Carlson's last statement? "Now what the hell ya suppose is eatin them two guys".
9. Do you think this story has a positive or negative ending? Why?

Of Mice and Men-VOCABULARY

1. Plaintively:
2. Timidely:
3. Dejectedly:
4. Promptly:
5. Imperiously:
6. Omniscious:
7. Morosely:
8. Pugnacious:
10. Aloof:
11. Crestfallen:
12. Conceal :
13. Appraised:

