

Name _____
Date _____ Hour _____

Of Mice and Men

By John Steinbeck

Be sure your answers are detailed and in complete sentences.

Chapter One

1. Describe Lennie's physical and mental characteristics.

2. Why is George "in charge" of Lennie?

3. Explain why George and Lennie had to leave their job in Weed.

4. What do the girl's dress in Weed and the mouse he carries in his pocket have in common for Lennie?

5. Why does George offer to give Lennie a pup?

6. Why do Lennie and George feel that they are different from the other guys?

7. Describe how things are going to be "someday" for George and Lennie.

8. What instructions does George give Lennie right before they go to sleep?

9. In your own words, describe the relationship between George and Lennie. Do you think George treated him very well? Explain.

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Chapter Two

1. Explain what makes the boss suspicious when he meets Lennie and George.

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

3. What explanation does Candy give George for Curley's treatment of Lennie?

4. Summarize Candy's description of Curley's wife.

5. Name two things George tells Lennie to do with regard to Curley.

6. What does George tell Lennie that Curley's wife is? What does he instruct Lennie to do about her?

7. What does George say he's scared he'll do? Why?

8. George lies to his boss about being Lennie's cousin and about the cause for Lennie's condition. Why do you think he feels it is necessary to tell such lies?

9. George reminds Lennie, after his instructions to him about Curley, to remember the hiding place by the river. What does this suggest George is thinking?

10. Foreshadowing plays an important role in this chapter. a.) What do you think is going to happen between Curley and Lennie? b.) What about candy's dog?

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Chapter 3

1. Describe George's reaction when Slim calls Lennie a "cuckoo."

2. How does George explain his relationship with Lennie to Slim?

3. Why does George tell Slim the truth about what happened in Weed?

4. Identify what Carlson asks Slim to do for Candy?

5. Why does George ask Whit about the "new kid," Curley's wife?

6. Why does George refuse to go with Whit to see whether Slim and Curley will get into a fight?

7. Describe the offer Candy makes to George. What is George's first reaction? What is his final reaction?

8. What does Candy say to George about his dog?

9. Why does Curley attack Lennie?

10. Explain what Slim makes Curley agree to.

11. Slim protects George and Lennie after Lennie's confrontation with Curley. Why do you think he does this? What does this suggest to you about Slim's character?

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Chapter Four

1. Describe how Crooks differs from other ranch hands.

2. What does Crooks say will happen to Lennie if George doesn't come back?

3. In your own words, describe what, according to Crooks, happens to a man if he doesn't have somebody.

4. Explain the offer Crooks makes to Candy and Lennie with regard to the place they and George intend to acquire.

5. Briefly restate Curley's wife's explanation for the reason guys won't talk unless they are alone.

6. What does Curley's wife say she might have done instead of marrying Curley?

7. What does Curley's wife threaten Crooks? What does she threaten him with?

8. What does Curley's wife say to Lennie about Curley?

9. Crooks tells Lennie he knows why his old man didn't like his playing with white kids. What does he now "know"?

10. Curley's wife indicates that she doesn't like her husband. Why do you think she married him? Base your answers on what you know about her character.

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Chapter Five

1. Explain why Lennie gets mad at his dead puppy.

2. Why does Curley's wife say she wants to talk to Lennie?

3. What does Curley's wife give Lennie as a reason for her having married Curley?

4. Explain why Lennie becomes angry with Curley's wife. What is the result of his anger?

5. What does Candy tell George they should do about Lennie?

6. What does George tell Candy he has known all along?

7. What does Slim tell George might happen to Lennie if they bring him in?

8. What does George suggest about Carlson's gun?

9. What does Curley say he's going to do with Lennie?

10. Carlson states that Lennie stole his pistol, that it wasn't lost. Is there another possible explanation for the missing gun?

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Chapter Six

1. What does Lennie repeatedly tell his "Aunt Clara" when she accuses him of doing bad things and not minding George?

2. Identify the statement that gigantic rabbit repeats to taunt Lennie?

3. Describe George's reaction and reply when Lennie says he thought George was mad at him.

4. What does Carlson assume happened to Lennie? What does George say?

5. Describe what Slim does at the end of the novel. What does he tell George?

6. George tells Lennie that he isn't mad at him and never has been, and he wants Lennie to know that. In your opinion, why does George say this? Do you think he is telling Lennie the truth?

7. Slim tells George, in essence, that he did what he had to do about Lennie. Do you agree or disagree with Slim? Are there other possibilities that George could have considered? If so, What are they?
