

***Of Mice and Men* Study Guide**

Advanced Placement in English Literature Developed Questions

Directions: Provide *thorough* responses for each question in complete sentences. This study guide is created to develop your critical thinking and reading skills; therefore, your responses should require an in-depth analysis of the novella.

Chapter One

1. Reread the first paragraph in the novel. How does this passage function? What purpose does Steinbeck fulfill by beginning the novel in this way?
2. In the section of text from page 3 to 4, Steinbeck uses several animal images to describe Lennie. Cite two examples of images that are used and explain their effect on Lennie's characterization.
3. When Lennie and George sit at the river to rest, what do they talk about? What does Steinbeck achieve through the conversation? What can we learn about George?
4. Why does Steinbeck mention on page 7 that George and Lennie had problems in Weed but then not develop the story?
5. Why does George tell Lennie to remember the spot where they were camping? What might this conversation foreshadow?

6. By the end of chapter 1, there are two themes that are easily identified. Using specific examples, describe these themes.

Chapter Two

1. In this chapter, Steinbeck again begins with a description of the setting. Explain how this description is different from the description at the beginning of the previous chapter. What does this description tell us about George and Lennie's life?
2. In the scene between the boss, George, and Lennie that begins on page 22, how does the boss misinterpret what is going on between George and Lennie? What does the boss think is taking place? What does the reader know about the conversation between the three men?
3. What is suggested about Curley's character when he reacts to George and Lennie the way he does?
4. What does the reader learn about Curley's wife? Why might this be important in the story?
5. How does the following passage serve as foreshadowing in the novel?
"If he tangles with you, Lennie, we're gonna get the can. Don't make no mistake about that. He's the boss's son. Look, Lennie. You try to keep away from him, will you? Don't never speak to him. If he comes in here you move clear to the other side of the room" (Steinbeck 29).

