

Student Name:

Teacher Name: Eddy/Wimberley

Class Name/Subject: English 1

Period: 3/4

Assignment Week #: 2

Of Mice and Men - Chapter Two

Directions: In complete sentences, answer 5 questions

1. How do the objects that George puts on his shelves compare with those of the men already in the bunkhouse?
2. What is Lennie doing during George's interactions with the swamper? With the boss? With Curley? What had George previously instructed Lennie to do?
3. What is Lennie's reaction to Curley's wife?
4. What inferences can you make about Curley's attitude towards George and Lennie in the following text: "He glanced coldly at George and then at Lennie. His arms gradually bent at the elbows and his hands closed into fists. He stiffened and went into a slight crouch. His glance was at once calculating and pugnacious."
5. How does George feel about Curley's wife?
6. Note the scenes in which the swamper's dog is mentioned. Describe the dog's appearance.
7. What is George's plan by the end of the Chapter? Why has he changed his mind about staying?
8. What does the fact that George makes his bed up neatly suggest about him?
9. What are your first impressions of the boss and his son?
10. How much of the paragraph beginning, "George said, 'He's my cousin..." did you believe was true when you first read it?
11. What is your reaction to the physical entrance of Curley's wife given what you already know about her? Does she meet the expectations you previously had of her? Do you find her to be a sympathetic character? Why or why not?
12. What is George's objective in describing Lennie as "[a] damn good worker," "strong as a bull," and "he can do anything you tell him"? Which of these assertions is ironic? Why?
13. For what reason would Steinbeck have chosen not yet to reveal the names of the swamper, the stable buck, or Curley's wife?
14. What purpose does the repetition of the word "if" serve in the scene starting with the paragraph, "George got up..." through, "If I get into trouble"?
15. How is the language used to describe Slim when he first enters the bunkhouse markedly different from that used to describe every other character in the novel so far? What is the effect? What dramatic function might Slim, then, serve?
16. Is the fact that George lies to the boss about being related to Lennie consistent with what we know about him already? Why or why not?
17. How does this chapter further illustrate the predatory nature of humanity?
18. How do Lennie's reactions to both Curley and Curley's wife parallel details we learned about Lennie in Chapter 1?
19. Compare and contrast the entrance of the boss, Curley, and Slim and their attitudes towards George and Lennie's friendship. What assumptions does each man make and what does each man's reaction say

about his character? How are these attitudes tied to the theme of loneliness and alienation introduced in Chapter 1?

20. What does the scene with Curley's wife contribute to the plot of the novel? To character development? To the theme?

Of Mice and Men Q&A Chapter Three

Directions: choose five questions to write complete sentence answers.

1. What new information do we learn about the history of George and Lennie's friendship in this chapter? About what happened in Weed?
2. Why is Lennie so happy in the first portion of this chapter? What are George's reactions to his happiness?
3. Why do Carlson and the other men want Candy to get rid of his dog? Why is Candy so resistant?
4. Who provides further information about Curley's wife in this chapter? Is this information consistent with what we already know about her?
5. How can Candy help George and Lennie fulfill their dream? What guarantee does he make so that they will include him in their plan?
6. What instigates the fight between Curley and Lennie? What stops it?
7. What does George and Slim's conversation at the beginning of the chapter reveal about each of them? About their attitude towards "meanness"? About their relationship?
8. What do Carlson's reactions to Candy's pleas to let his dog live reveal about his character? Why do you feel this way?
9. Is Lennie justified in his actions with Curley? Do these actions change the reader's impression of Lennie? Of George? Why or why not?
10. How does Steinbeck create tension in the scene in which Candy's dog is shot? What might the subtext of this tension be with respect to each of the characters on the ranch?
11. Examine the animal imagery used to describe the fight and assess the overall effect. How are Lennie and Curley ultimately portrayed?
12. Analyze the continued significance of Candy's dog. When considering this developing motif, how might the reader logically draw a parallel between the swamper's relationship with his dog and the relationship between George and Lennie?
13. How and when does the dynamic in George and Lennie's relationship change? How does it help explain George's devotion to Lennie?
14. Compare how Curley is portrayed in this chapter with previous portrayals. In what way(s) does this chapter sharpen the reader's view of him?
15. Though Curley's wife plays no overt role in this chapter, what purpose does her mention—and her presence in the novel—serve?
16. How has the author prepared the reader for the inevitable fight between Lennie and Curley?
17. Based on what we already know about Curley, how does Slim know that he will not tell anyone what really happened to his hand?
18. What dramatic function(s) might William Tenner's letter serve?
19. Evaluate the portrayal of Curley in the novel. Is he at all justified in his attitude and actions? How does that affect the reader's sympathy or lack thereof?
20. Does the author successfully maintain the sympathy for Lennie?