

'Of Mice and Men' Revision Questions

Character:

1. What is Lennie a symbol of?
2. How does the reader feel about Lennie at the end of the novel?
3. Does the reader blame Lennie for anything at the end of the novel? Why?
4. What is George a symbol of?
5. How does the reader feel about George at the end of the novel?
6. Does the reader blame George for anything at the end of the novel? Why?
7. What does Slim represent in the novel?
8. How do the other men on the ranch react to and treat Slim? Why is this significant?
9. Why does Steinbeck include the character of Slim in the story?
10. What is the reader meant to learn from Slim in the novel?
11. What does Curley's Wife represent?
12. Why is Curley's Wife an important character in the story?
13. What does Curley represent?
14. Is he an important character in the story? Why?
15. Why is Candy's dog included in the story?
16. Why is Candy included in the story?
17. What function does Carlson play in the novel?
18. Is Crooks an important character in the story? Why?
19. How is the reader meant to feel about Crooks?
20. Which character do you think is most important in the novel as a whole? Why?

Themes:

1. How is theme of prejudice explored in the novel? What types of prejudice are there?
2. Why has Steinbeck included the theme of prejudice in the novel?
3. Who is a victim of prejudice in the novel?
4. What is 'the American Dream'? Why is it an important theme in the novel?
5. Who is looking for the American Dream?
6. What happens to dreams in the novel?

7. Who is lonely in the novel and for what reasons?
8. How does the reader feel about the characters that are lonely?
9. Who has friends in the novel? Why is this interesting?
10. Why does Steinbeck explore the theme of friendship in the novel? (link to historical context)

Context:

1. Why is the setting of the novel relevant to the time it was written in?
2. Why has Steinbeck written about a common experience? Who is he aiming his novel at?
3. What is Curley's Wife a stereotype of?
4. Would a reader in Steinbeck's time have been shocked at the portrayal of Crooks? Why?
5. Would a reader in Steinbeck's time have been shocked at the portrayal of Candy? Why?
6. Would a reader in Steinbeck's time have been shocked at what happens to Lennie at the end? Why?

Writer's Craft:

1. Why does Steinbeck use foreshadowing so much in the novel?
2. Why does Steinbeck describe characters in so much detail when we first meet them?
3. Why does Steinbeck use animal imagery in the novel?
4. Why are the adverbs used to describe how characters speak and move so important? Why has Steinbeck done this?
5. Why does Steinbeck describe nature in so much detail?
6. Why has Steinbeck created a novel that is cyclical (it starts and finishes in the same location)? What effect does this have on the reader?
7. Why does Steinbeck repeat some images throughout the novel? E.g. 'flopping like a fish'