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*Of Mice and Men* Studyguide

Chapter 1:

1. What is the setting as the novel begins?
2. What is happening as the novel begins?
3. What is George like? Describe him physically and emotionally.
4. What is Lennie like? Describe him physically and emotionally.
5. What sort of relationship do these two men have?
6. Where are George and Lennie going?

Why are they camping out?

7. What does Lennie have in his pocket? Why?
8. Why do you suppose George won't let him keep it?
9. How does George know that Lennie went to look for it?
10. What happened that made George and Lennie leave Weed?

11. Why does George get angry with Lennie?

12. What does George coach Lennie to do if there is trouble?

#### Chapter 2:

1. Why is the new boss angry before George and Lennie arrive?

2. Why isn't George happy with his bunk?

3. How does Candy reassure him?

Do you believe Candy?

4. What is the boss like? Describe him.

5. What is Curley like? Describe him physically and emotionally.

6. Why does Candy say that Curley's "pants is full of ants"?

7. What is Curley's wife like? Describe her physically and emotionally.

8. Why is Curley's wife "suddenly apprehensive" when she finds out he has gone into the house?

9. Who is Slim?

Describe him physically and emotionally.

10. Curley's "eyes flashed over George, took in his height, measured his reach, looked at his trim middle." What is Curley thinking?

### Chapter 3:

1. Why does Slim call Lennie a cuckoo?
2. What was the last prank George played on Lennie?
3. What further details do we learn about the incident in Weed?
4. Where does Lennie get the pup?
5. What game do several of the men play outdoors?
6. Why does Whit want Slim to read the magazine?

Why do you think this is an important moment for these workers?

7. Why do you think Candy allowed Carlson to kill his dog?

8. Why do the men like Susy's place?
9. What do George and Lennie tell Candy that instantly makes him feel better?
10. What do you think Curley asked Slim as they were walking into the bunkhouse?
11. Why does Curley think Lennie is laughing at him?
12. How does Lennie end up hurting Curley?
13. Was George giving good advice when he told Lennie to fight back?

Chapter 4:

1. What is Crooks' bunk like?
2. Why doesn't Crooks want Lennie to come into his room at first?
3. Why does Crooks tell Lennie so much about himself?
4. How does Crooks scare Lennie with his talk?
5. Why does Candy come into Crooks' room?

6. How does Crooks offer to help out on the place George, Lennie, and Candy are planning to get?
7. Why does Curley's wife come in?
8. Why does Curley's wife insult Candy, Crooks, and Lennie?
9. How does she insult and threaten Crooks?
10. Why is George angry with Lennie and with Candy when he finds them in Crooks' room?

Chapter 5:

1. What happens to Lennie's puppy?
2. Why does Curley's wife talk to Lennie in the barn?
3. Why does Curley's wife let Lennie pet her hair?
4. Why does Lennie get angry with Curley's wife?

What does he do?

5. How is Curley's wife discovered?

6. What does George mean when he tells Candy, “I think I knowed we’d never do her”?
7. What plan does George come up with after Candy finds Curley’s wife?
8. Why do Slim and George agree, “I guess we gotta get Lennie”?
9. What is Curley’s immediate reaction to the murder?

#### Chapter 6:

1. How is the setting at the opening of this final chapter like that of the first scene in the story?
2. Why has Lennie come to this clearing?
3. What is happening to Lennie as he sits there?

What does he see?

4. What is George’s mood when he finds Lennie?
5. Why does Lennie “trick” George into telling him the story?
6. How does George distract Lennie while he takes out the Luger?

7. Why does George do what he does to Lennie?
  
8. How do Slim and Carlson react when they discover what has happened?
  
9. How can you tell that Slim understands how George is feeling?
  
10. How does he try to comfort George?
  
11. How does George lie about the circumstances regarding what happened to Lennie?
  
12. How do you suppose George will get along without Lennie?
  
13. Do you think George ever gets the place he has talked about?