

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Of Mice and Men* Study Guide: Chapters 1-2  
Mrs. Howard

### Chapter 1

1. Look at the first paragraph. In your own words, describe the setting. What mood is established? Write down one line from the opening paragraph and explain how it supports your conclusion about the mood.
2. Physically describe Lennie and George.
3. Steinbeck uses animal imagery to describe Lennie, the larger man. Cite two examples of this type of image that is used in the first few pages of the chapter.
4. What's the name of the town where George and Lennie last worked? What happened that caused the two men to run away from this town?
5. How are George and Lennie different than other ranch workers? Cite a line from the chapter that supports your statement (include the page number).

6. Why did Aunt Clara give Lennie a rubber mouse? Why didn't he like it?
7. Describe George's plan for getting the job at the ranch.
8. Describe activities that show George acting as Lennie's caregiver.
9. Describe activities that show Lennie behaving as an animal.
10. Even though Lennie's mentality keeps him from fully understanding the world around him, he is very sensitive to George's feelings. Describe an incident that shows Lennie's compassion for George.
11. After George erupts in anger about the responsibility of taking care of Lennie, Lennie offers to run away and leave George alone. Why do you think George does not take Lennie up on his offer?
12. Why does Lennie like George to tell the story of the ranch, even though he already knows it by heart? Why does George so readily agree to tell the story, even though he has just gotten angry with Lennie so few minutes before?

13. What is George and Lennie's American Dream?

14. Explain the idiom, "live off the fatta the lan'."

15. Why does George tell Lennie to remember the spot where they are camping? What might this conversation foreshadow?

## Chapter 2

1. In this chapter of novel, Steinbeck again begins with a description of the setting. Explain how the description that begins this chapter is different from the description at the beginning of the first chapter. What does this description tell us about George and Lennie's life?

2. When George and Lennie are shown their quarters, George is upset about his bunk at first. Why?

3. Identify the figurative language in the passage below.  
*"Lennie smiles to himself, 'Strong as a bull,' he repeated."*

4. When the boss is talking to George about their work, George speaks for both himself and Lennie. What does his boss suspect is going on between George and Lennie? What is George's response?
5. Explain the irony in Lennie's last name.
6. Who is Curley, and what does it mean when Candy says he is "handy"?
7. Why does Curley automatically hate Lennie?
8. What does the reader learn about Curley's wife?
9. What does George warn Lennie about? Why? Where does he tell him to go?
10. After Curley's wife comes into the barn looking for Curley, why does George get angry at Lennie?

11. Describe Slim by using specific references from the novel. What do the descriptions of Slim indicate about his character?
12. What happens to Slim's dog and her puppies? What does this tell us about survival as a migrant worker?
13. What is Carlson's problem with Candy's dog?
14. What is Lennie excited about at the end of the chapter?