

Name: _____
Date: _____
Period: _____

Of Mice and Men Study Guide: Chapters 3-4
Mrs. Howard

Chapter 3

1. Why did George at one time play jokes on Lennie? Why did he stop? What do we learn about the interdependence of George and Lennie?
2. What can you infer about the quote below?
"You sure was right about him. Maybe he ain't bright, but I never seen such a worker. He damn near killed his partner buckin' barley."
3. Why does George reveal to Slim what happened to them in Weed? What is Slim's response?
4. Why does Carlson want to shoot Candy's dog?
5. What do Slim and Whit discover in a pulp magazine? How is this important for the group of men?

6. Explain the following passage and its function in the story:

"She's gonna make a mess. They's gonna be a bad mess about her. She's a jail bait all set on the trigger. That Curley got his work cut out for him. Ranch with a bunch of guys on it ain't no place for a girl, specially like her."

7. Where does Whit invite George and Lennie to go? Why type of establishment is it? What is George's response?

8. When Curley comes into the bunkhouse, for whom is he looking? When he discovers that Slim is not there, what does he assume? What do we learn about Curley's relationship with his wife, based on this event?

9. Lennie, sensitive by nature, shows a violent streak while George tells the story of their future ranch. What does Lennie say, specifically, that show this violence?

10. Why is Candy interested in the story about George and Lennie's dream?

11. How are the theme of survival and the power struggle between the weak and the strong highlighted in this chapter?

12. After George, Lennie and Candy make a pact not to tell anyone about their dream, Candy makes the following statement: "I oughtta of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't oughtta of let no stranger shoot my dog." Explain the parallelism between the relationship Candy had with his dog and the one George has with Lennie. How might this statement be an example of foreshadowing?
13. Describe the nature of the argument between Curley and Slim.
14. Why does Curley pick on Lennie?
15. What happens because of Lennie's taking care of himself? How does Lennie respond? Why?
16. Why is George worried about getting "canned"?

Chapter 4

1. What initially brings Lennie to Crooks' room? How does Crook react to the visitor?

2. What can you infer about the quote below?
“‘Come on in. if ever’body’s comin’ in, you might just as well.’ It was difficult for Crooks to conceal his pleasure with anger.”
3. Crooks is also very lonely, but how is his loneliness different from the others’?
4. Why does Lennie become upset with Crooks?
5. Why does Crooks make Lennie believe that George will not come back for him?
6. How does Crooks respond to Lennie when Lennie describes George’s dream about the rabbits? Why do you think he responds this way?
7. Who comes to visit Lennie, Candy and Crooks? What is the real reason behind this visit?
8. Characterize Curley’s wife as she is presented in novel. How is the reader supposed to feel about her?

9. Do you think Curley's wife knows that Lennie hurt Curley's hand? Why or why not?

10. How does this chapter end? Explain the circular nature of the chapter and what it implies about Crooks.