

Study Guide Questions for *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Write or type your answers and have a copy ready to turn in on the first day of class.

Chapter 1

1. When George and Lennie approach the river, why does George warn Lennie not to drink too much water?
2. What has George told Lennie about that he always remembers even when he forgets everything else?
3. Why does Lennie have a dead mouse in his pocket?
4. Why does George order Lennie not to talk when they get to the ranch?
5. What happened to all of the mice that Lennie's Aunt Clara gave him?
6. Why have George and Lennie run away from Weed?
7. What does Lennie want to eat with his beans?
8. Why does George say that migrant workers who travel from farm to farm are the loneliest people in the world?
9. What dream do George and Lennie share?
10. What does George tell Lennie to do if he gets in trouble at their new job site?

Chapter 2

1. Where do the ranch hands keep their personal belongings such as soap, razors and magazines?
2. Candy, the old swamper who shows George and Lennie to their bunks, is missing what limb?
3. What evidence does the old swamper give that the ranch boss is a “pretty nice fella”?
4. What evidence is there that the boss is not a working man?
5. According to the old swamper, what is Curley good at?
6. According to the old swamper, why does Curley wear a work glove on his left hand?
7. What is the general attitude toward Curley’s wife?
8. Describe Slim, the jerkline skinner.
9. Why does Carlson suggest shooting Candy’s dog?
10. What is the understood question that Lennie wants George to ask Slim?

Chapter 3

1. Why does George say Lennie will want to sleep in the barn that Friday night?
2. According to George, how did he end up traveling with Lennie?

3. What happened that made George stop playing dirty tricks on Lennie?
4. Why did George and Lennie have to flee from Weed?
5. Who makes the final decision on whether or not Candy's old dog should be shot?
6. What is significant about the letter Whit reads from the Western magazine?
7. Why does George agree to let Candy come with them to their dream farm?
8. Why does Curley attack Lennie in the bunk house?
9. Why does Curley agree not to get Lennie fired for crushing his hand?
10. What punishment does Lennie fear he will get for hurting Curley?

Chapter 4

1. Why has Crooks been able to accumulate more personal items than the other ranch hands?
2. What reason does Crooks first give for Lennie not being welcome in his room?
3. According to Crooks, why does a person need a companion?
4. What is Crooks's initial response to Candy's account of the dream farm and what evidence is there that his attitude changes?
5. According to Curley's wife, why are the men afraid to talk to her when there is more than one present?

6. Why doesn't Curley's wife like talking to her husband?
7. What reason does Candy give when he says that they are no longer afraid that Curley's wife will get them fired?
8. What makes Crooks so bold as to confront Curley's wife and tell her to leave his room?
9. How does Candy finally make Curley's wife leave the barn?
10. What does George say about Candy and Lennie visiting with Crooks?

Chapter 5

1. What has happened to Lennie's puppy and why?
2. What two pieces of information does Curley's wife share with Lennie?
3. Why does Curley's wife offer to let Lennie caress her hair?
4. How and why does Lennie kill Curley's wife?
5. Why does George say that they can't let Lennie escape to live on his own?
6. What is Candy's greatest fear?
7. When George asks Slim about just trying to catch Lennie instead of killing him, what advice does Slim give George?

8. What makes the men think that Lennie is armed?
9. Where does Curley plan to aim if he shoots Lennie?
10. Who stays with Curley's wife as the others go off in pursuit of Lennie?

Chapter 6

1. What scenes of death does Steinbeck describe in the beginning of Chapter 6 that parallel the events of the previous chapter and foreshadow the event to come?
2. How does the chapter bring the book full circle?
3. What two imaginary visitors does Lennie have while sitting on the river bank?
4. What is the subject of the conversation Lennie has with his first visitor?
5. What does his second visitor tell Lennie that recalls an earlier conversation he had with Crooks?
6. How is George and Lennie's conversation similar to the one that they had by the pool in Chapter 1?
7. Where has George gotten the gun he takes from his front pocket while sitting with Lennie on the river bank?
8. What evidence is there that George is having a terribly difficult time bringing himself to shoot Lennie?
9. What lie does George tell about the way Lennie died?
10. What evidence is there that Slim understands what has really happened there on the riverbank?