

Of Mice and Men - Reading Comprehension Questions

Remember to answer in complete sentences or points will be deducted.

Chapter 1

1. In what part of the country does the story take place?
2. When George and Lennie approach the river, why does George warn Lennie not to drink too much water?
3. List character traits that describe Lennie.
4. List character traits that describe George.
5. To what animal is Lennie compared? To what animal would you compare George? Why?
6. What has George told Lennie about that he always remembers even when he forgets everything else?
7. Why does Lennie have a dead mouse in his pocket?
8. In the book George looks out for Lennie, so Lennie is definitely stronger with George around, but is the same true for George being stronger with Lennie? Or does Lennie only bring George down?
9. Why does George order Lennie not to talk when they get to the ranch?
10. Does George really want Lennie to go away? Why or why not?
11. What is the meaning of the phrase: "An' live off the fatta the lan'?"
12. Where does George tell Lennie to hide if he gets into trouble?

Chapter 2

1. Who greeted George and Lennie at the bunkhouse?
2. Where do the ranch hands keep their personal belongings such as soap, razors and magazines?
3. Whom did the boss punish because George and Lennie were late? Why?
4. Why does George answer all the questions directed to Lennie?
5. What excuse does George give for Lennie?
6. How does the boss react to George's friendship with Lennie?
7. What evidence is there that the boss is not a working man?
8. How does Curley react to Lennie's silence?
9. In the book, George and Curley have a conversation about Lennie and George traveling together. By saying "Oh, so it's that way." Curley is accusing George and Lennie of what?
10. What does Curley think about George and Lennie's traveling together?
11. Do you think Curley understands friendship?
12. What uneasy feeling does George have about Curley's wife?

Chapter 3

1. Describe Slim.
2. What kind act does Slim do for Lennie?
3. How does Slim react to Lennie and George's traveling together?
4. What happened in Weed?
5. Why do you think George told Slim about it?
6. From Carlson's point of view, how does he describe Candy's dog?
7. What is Carlson's solution to the problem of the dog?

8. Why do you think Carlson does that to Candy's dog?
9. What role does Candy play in helping George and Lennie try to buy land?
10. Why does George agree to let Candy come with them to their dream farm?
11. Why does Curley attack Lennie?
12. What happens to Curley?

Chapter 4

1. Why has Crooks been able to accumulate more personal items than the other ranch hands?
2. Why is Crooks jealous of Lennie's friendship with George?
3. Lennie asks Crooks why he isn't wanted. What is Crooks' response?
4. How does Crooks fill his loneliness?
5. According to Crooks, why does a person need a companion?
6. What is Crooks' first response to Candy's account of the dream farm?
7. Do you think Crooks' attitude changes about the dream farm?
8. Why does Curley's wife interrupt Crooks, Candy, and Lennie?
9. According to Curley's wife, why are the men afraid to talk to her when there is more than one present?
10. What is Curley's wife's reaction to the incident with his hand?
11. Do you think Curley's wife really knows what happened to his hand?
12. Why doesn't Curley's wife like talking to her husband?

Chapter 5

1. What has happened to Lennie's puppy and why?
2. Why is he angry at the puppy?
3. What two pieces of information does Curley's wife share with Lennie?
4. When Lennie does not want to talk to Curley's wife, how does she react?
5. What does she ask Lennie to do?
6. What happens instead?
7. Whom does Candy blame for the murder?
8. Why is he so angry about what has happened?
9. Why does George leave and then return to the scene of the crime with the others?
10. When George asks Slim about just trying to catch Lennie instead of killing him, what advice does Slim give George?
11. Why do you think he says that they can't let Lennie escape to live on his own?
12. Who does Carlson think has stolen the Luger pistol?

Chapter 6

1. Where does Lennie hide?
2. What is Lennie's unusual hallucination like? How do the characters in Lennie's dream treat him?
3. 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?
4. Lennie and George have a conversation wherein Lennie says, "I done another bad thing." George responds, "It don't make no difference," What do you think George means by saying this?

5. What is George going to do to Lennie? How does he do it?
6. What happened earlier in the novel that is similar to what happens between George and Lennie at the end?
7. Why did George lie to the others about what really happened?
8. Do you think this story has a positive or a negative ending? Why?
9. What alternatives were there for the ending?
10. George and Lennie dream of owning a farm, but even if this story had a different ending, do you think their dream is realistic? Why or why not?
11. Is George a good friend? Use an example from the book to support your answer.
12. George says a lot about how much better his life would be if he didn't have to take care of Lennie. If this is true, why do you think he stays with Lennie?