

OF Mice/Men Study Guide Questions w/ Answers

Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6

Chapter 3

1. Slim and George have a long conversation. Slim says it's funny how George and Lennie go around together. What is George's answer?
He explains that Lennie had no one else to take care of him, and George assumed the responsibility. He admits that Lennie is a pain in the neck sometimes, but that "you kinda get used to going around with a guy and after a while you can't get rid of 'm."
2. Identify Candy.
Candy is the swamper. He is an older man who has at some time lost one hand. He has an old dog he raised from a pup and although he realizes that the dog must be in misery, he can't bring himself to shoot it.
3. What did Carlson do with his Luger? Why?
Carlson shot Candy's dog to put it out of its misery because Candy couldn't bring himself to do it.
4. What card game does George play?
George plays solitaire.
5. Describe Curley's wife. What's the problem about her?
Curley's wife dresses and acts like a tramp, according to the men. The problem is that she is lonesome since Curley won't let her talk to anyone. She keeps coming around the bunkhouse and barn to talk to the men (and to make advances), and then Curley gets jealous and mad with the men and tries to start fights.
6. What will Lennie's job be when he and George get their land?
Lennie's job will be to tend the rabbits.
7. What does Candy want when he hears about George's and Lennie's plans? What is he willing to contribute?
Candy wants to join George and Lennie on their land. He is willing to put up several hundred dollars he has saved.
8. Why did Curley fight with Lennie? What happened?
Lennie was smiling, thinking about the land when Carlson and Candy were verbally attacking Curley. Curley sees Lennie smiling and assumes he is laughing at him. Curley begins beating on Lennie, who remains with his hands at his sides until George tells him several times to go ahead and fight back. Lennie grabs Curley's hand, and although he wasn't trying to hurt him, he crushes the hand, breaking several bones.

Chapter 4

1. Identify Crooks.

Crooks is the black stable hand. He has apparently worked on this ranch for some time, judging from his accumulated possessions.

2. Lennie tells Crooks about the land. What is his reply at first?

Crooks tells Lennie that he is nuts. He says he's seen hundreds of hands come and go with the same dream of having a piece of land, and none of them ever actually did get any land. "Nobody gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land. It's just in their head."

3. What does Crooks want when he believes there might really be land?

He wants to join the men on the land and will work for free, for just being able to live there.

4. Why did Curley's wife come to the barn?

She was looking for Curley, she said, but she actually came to talk to the men and find some company.

5. Why did Crooks change his mind after Curley's wife left?

He realized that the dream could never come true for him. He was a Negro who had just been put in his place by a white woman, and this fact brought back the harsh reality of his life.

Chapter 5

1. What happened to Lennie's puppy? What is his reaction?

Lennie's puppy died because he handled it too roughly. He knows George is going to be mad, and he thinks George won't let him tend the rabbits now.

2. Why did Curley's wife come to see Lennie?

Curley's wife came to see Lennie because she figured out that he crushed Curley's hand and wouldn't be afraid of Curley anymore -- he was the most likely candidate for her advances at this time.

3. What did she tell Lennie?

She told Lennie that she didn't like Curley and that she had had other opportunities to go places and make something of herself, but she couldn't take advantage of them, so she married Curley as the next most likely way to get out of her hometown.

4. Why did Lennie kill Curley's wife?

Curley's wife invited him to feel her soft hair. As we may have guessed from the foreshadowing event in Weed, he gets a little too rough and when Curley's wife starts to struggle, he gets confused and holds even tighter. When she starts to yell, Lennie thinks George will hear and will be mad that he is communicating with the woman, so he covers

her mouth. Lennie gets more and more confused as to what to do (thinking that between the puppy's death and his talking to Curley's wife, George is going to be furious). Finally, he shakes her and her neck snaps.

5. What was George's reaction when he found out about Curley's wife's death?

He didn't want the men to think he had anything to do with it, and then he tried to think how he could protect Lennie. He went and got his hat and coat and the Luger before he joined the men.

6. What was Curley's reaction to his wife's death?

Curley was furious, and right away assumed Lennie had done it. He was out for revenge to kill Lennie.

Chapter 6

1. How and why did George kill Lennie?

George met Lennie at the old campsite and tried to tell him he wasn't mad. He realized that the only way to protect Lennie from the devastating punishment which would be inflicted upon him was to kill him. He made up with Lennie and talked to him about the land, making Lennie look across the water to "see" it. Then he shot him with the Luger in the most humane way possible. George did what he had to do as Lennie's friend.

2. Who is the only one who really understands what George did?

When the men arrived, Slim was the only one who could sympathize with George. Because of their earlier conversation, he understood the relationship between George and Lennie.