***Of Mice and Men* STUDY GUIDE Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*Write your answers on a SEPARATE SHEET of paper using COMLETE SENTENCES.**

**Chapter 1**

1. Steinbeck uses animal imagery to describe Lennie, the larger man. Cite two examples of this type of mage that is used in the first few pages of the chapter.
2. Why does George tell Lennie not to drink the water? Why might this seem like an unusual instruction to give a man who has spent part of his adult life traveling the country?
3. George gives Lennie instructions about the water, and when he explains about the type of water that is safe to drink, he does so “hopelessly.” What can we infer about why George might feel hopeless when he is talking to Lennie?
4. When Lennie and George sit by the river to rest, what do they talk about? What can we learn about Lennie from their conversation? What can we learn about George?
5. What does Lennie have in his pocket? Why does he want to keep it? Describe George’s plan for getting the job at the ranch. What do we learn about Lennie from this plan
6. What does George claim he is missing out on because of Lennie? Be specific.
7. How does Lennie’s desire for a touching sensation get him in trouble in Weed?
8. 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?
9. Why does Lennie like George to tell the story of the ranch, even though he already knows it by heart? Why does George agree to tell the story, even though he has just gotten angry with Lennie a few minutes before?
10. Why does George tell Lennie to remember the spot where they are camping? What might this foreshadow?

**Chapter Two Questions For *Of Mice and Men***

1. Explain how the description of the setting that begins this chapter is different than 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, the old man tells them the boss is angry at them. Why?
3. The old man tells George and Lennie about a blacksmith who used to work at the ranch and suddenly quit. What does the old man’s story seem to suggest about the men who work on these ranches?
4. When the boss is talking to George about their work, George speaks for himself and Lennie. What does his boss suspect is going on between George and Lennie? What is George’s response?
5. Why does George not let Lennie speak to the boss?
6. Describe the interaction between George, Curley, and Lennie. Why do you think Curley acts the way he does? How does George feel about Curley?
7. What does George warn Lennie about? Why? Where does he tell him to go?
8. After Curley’s wife comes to the barn looking for Curley, why does George get angry at Lennie?
9. What happens to Slim’s dog and her puppies? What does this tell us about survival as a migrant worker?
10. Throughout the chapter, Lennie and George are questioned three times about traveling together. Describe the three different encounters and what we learn about the characters through their responses to George’s answer.
11. What can we learn about migrant workers during the Great Depression through the narration of this chapter?

**Chapter Three Questions for *Of Mice and Men***

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. How does Slim compare Lennie to other men?
3. Why does George reveal to Slim what happened to them in Weed? What is Slim’s response?
4. What do George and Lennie talk about when Lennie comes into the house?
5. Why do you think the author spends so much of the narration talking about what a kind person Lennie is?
6. Why does Carlson want to shoot Candy’s dog?
7. What are Candy’s reasons for not wanting to shoot the dog? Do you think these are his real reasons?
8. What do Slim and Whit discover in a pulp magazine? How is this important for the group of men?
9. Why does the image of silence play an important role at this point in the novel? Who is literally being silenced? Who is metaphorically being silenced, and what role does each man play in the silence?
10. Where does Whit invite George and Lennie to go? What type of establishment is it? What’s George’s response?
11. Describe the conversation George and Lennie have after the men go in search of a fight?
12. Lennie, sensitive by nature, shows a violent streak while George tells the story of their future ranch. What does Lennie say, specifically, that shows this violence? How does this add to the violent nature of the novel?
13. What does talking about the dream do for Lennie and George? Why is Candy interested in the story about George and Lennie’s dream?
14. How are the following themes highlighted in this chapter? Survival? Power struggle of weak verses strong?
15. Candy makes the following statement: “I ought to ‘of ‘shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn’t ought to ‘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.
16. Describe the nature of the argument between Curley and Slim.
17. Why does Curley pick on Lennie?
18. Why do you think George encourages Lennie to fight back when Curley hits him?
19. What happens as a result of Lennie’s taking care of himself? How does Lennie respond? Why?
20. Why will Curley keep quiet about what Lennie did to him and not try to get George and Lennie fired?

**Chapter Four Questions for *Of Mice and Men***

1. Why is Curley’s wife nameless?
2. What initially brings Lennie to Crooks’ room? How does Crooks react to the visitor?
3. At first Crooks is unfriendly to Lennie, but then he invites Lennie to sit. Why does he change?
4. Crooks is also very lonely, but how is his loneliness different from the others’?
5. Why does Lennie become upset with Crooks?
6. Why does Crooks make Lennie believe that George will not come back for him?
7. How does Crooks explain to Lennie why he upset him?
8. How does Crooks respond to Lennie when Lennie describes George’s dream about the rabbits?
9. Who comes to visit Lennie, Candy, and Crooks? What is the real reason behind the visit?
10. Characterize Curley’s wife as she is presented in the novel. How is the reader supposed to feel about her?
11. How is the idea of power and powerlessness developed at the beginning and in end of this chapter?
12. How does this chapter end? Explain the circular nature of the chapter and what it implies about Crooks.

**Chapter Five Questions for *Of Mice and Men***

1. Despite the descriptive setting of the barn and the quiet Sunday afternoon, the next chapter begins with an accident. Explain what happened and why Lennie is so worried.
2. Describe Lennie’s irrational anger when he does not understand about the puppy’s death.
3. Who joins Lennie in the barn? Why? How does Lennie react?
4. How is the conversation between Lennie and Curley’s wife like the conversation between Lennie and Crooks
5. How does Curley’s wife show that she is not as contemptible as she seems?
6. Why does Curley’s wife become angry at Lennie?
7. Throughout the book, the reader learns about Lennie and George’s dream. What does the reader learn about Curley’s wife’s dream? How does her dream influence her life?
8. How does the reader know that Curley’s wife does not understand Lennie’s mental challenges?
9. What is Lennie’s explanation for why he likes rabbits? How does Curley’s wife respond?
10. Why does Lennie panic, and what happens as a result of his panic? How is this similar to an earlier event?
11. How do Curley’s wife and Lennie’s dreams both seem to die with the accidental death?
12. When Steinbeck describes the moments after Curley’s wife’s death, he uses personification. Cite an example of personification and explain the impact of its use in this section of the novel.
13. What decision does George make about the girl’s death? What does Candy want to do and why?
14. More than what happened in this chapter, what does Candy worry about? What is George’s reaction?
15. How does Candy address the body of the girl after he talks to George and learns that their dream of the farm is no longer a reality? Why do you think he reacts this way?
16. How does George keep the men from finding Lennie right away? How do we know that this is not where Lennie would have gone?
17. What do the men suppose happened to Carlson’s gun? Why is this hard to believe?

**Chapter Six Questions for *Of Mice and MeN***

1. How is the beginning of this scene similar to the beginning of the novel? Why would Steinbeck begin this chapter in the same way that he began the first?
2. Explain the image of the heron awaiting its prey and its connection to Lennie and his circumstances.
3. As Lennie is waiting for George, he remembers a “little fat old woman. She wore thick bull’s-eye glasses and she wore a huge gingham apron with pockets, and she was starched and clean.” Who is the woman?
4. How can we explain the hallucinations that Lennie has as he is waiting for George?
5. How does George know where to find Lennie?
6. Why does George go through the motions of pretending to be angry at Lennie?
7. Explain whether you believe Lennie realizes that he has done something wrong.
8. Explain the symbolism in George’s final telling of the farm story.
9. Why is George calm, almost without emotion, when he talks with Lennie?
10. Why is George’s point that on the ranch they will have each other to look after mentioned so often?
11. Earlier in the novel, what foreshadows the final events between Lennie and George?
12. Why do you think George shoots Lennie?
13. Why do you think George lies to the men about the events that led up to Lennie’s death?
14. Who realizes what really happened between Lennie and George?
15. Explain the significance of the final statement in the novel.