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“Of Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck

Reading Questions

Chapter 1

1.) What is the setting of the novel (time and place)?

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2.) List words that describe Lennie.

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3.) List words that describe George.

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4.) To what animals are Lennie compared?

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5.) To what animal would you compare George?

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6.) Why were George and Lennie run out of Weed?

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7.) What things does Lennie do and say that make him childlike?

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8.) Does George really want Lennie to go away? Explain.

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9.) What is the meaning of the following phrase: “An live off the fatta the lan”?

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10.) Where does George tell Lennie to hide if he gets in trouble?

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Chapter 2

1.) Who greeted George and Lennie at the bunkhouse? Describe him.

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2.) Who was Whitey? What unusual habits did Whitey have?

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3.) Whom did the boss punish because George and Lennie were late and why?

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4.) Why does George answer all the questions directed at Lennie?

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5.) How does the boss react to George’s friendship with Lennie?

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6.) What excuse does George give for Lennie’s slowness?

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7.) Who is Curley? Describe him.

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8.) How does Curley react to Lennie’s silence?

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9.) What does he think about George and Lennie’s traveling together?

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10.) Who is the “swamper”? Describe him. What is his job exactly?

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11.) What does the “swamper” mean by the statement: “Curely’s pretty handy”?

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12.) Describe Curley’s wife.

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13.) What uneasy feeling does George have about Curley’s wife? Why?

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Chapter 3

1.) Who is Slim? Describe him.

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2.) What kind act does Slim do for Lennie?

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3.) How does Slim react to Lennie and George’s traveling together?

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4.) Why do you think George told Slim about what happned in Weed?

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5.) From Carlson’s point of view, list words that describe Candy’s dog.

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6.) What is Carlson’s solution to the problem of the dog?

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7.) Describe what Carlson does to Candy’s dog.

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8.) What role does Candy play in helping George and Lennie to buy land?

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9.) What does Curley attack Lennie?

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10.) What happens to Curley? Explain in detail.

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Chapter 4

1.) Who is Crooks? Describe him.

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2.) Why is Crooks jealous of Lennie’s friendship with George?

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3.) How does Crooks fill his loneliness?

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4.) How does Crooks feel about Lennie’s dream of “livin off the fatta lan”?

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5.) Why does Curley’s wife interrupt Crooks, Candy and Lennie?

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6.) Does Curely’s wife really know what happened to his hand? How do you know?

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7.) What is her reaction to the incident?

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Chapter 5

1.) What did Lennie do to the puppy?

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2.) Why is he now angry at the puppy?

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3.) When Lennie does not want to talk to Curley’s wife, how does she react?

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4.) What does she admit to Lennie?

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5.) What does she ask Lennie to do?

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6.) Explain specifically what happens next, and the end result.

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7.) Who does Candy blame for the murder?

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8.) Why is Candy so angry at what had happened?

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9.) Why does George leave and then return to the scene of the crime with the others?

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10.) Who does Carlson think has stolen his Luger?

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Chapter 6

1.) Where does Lennie hide?

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2.) Lennie has an unusual hallucination. Describe it.

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3.) How do the characters in Lennie’s dream treat him?

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4.) What is George going to do to Lennie? How does he do it?

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5.) Earlier in the novel, who or what was treated in the same way? What was different?

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6.) Why did George lie to the others about what really happened?

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7.) Do you think the story has a positive or negative ending? Why?

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