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# OF MICE AND MEN

by  
John Steinbeck

## Student Packet

Written by  
Maureen Kirchhoefer  
and Mary Dennis

<b>Contains masters for:</b>	1	Prereading Activity
	3	Creative Writing Activities
	3	Literary Analysis Activities
	1	Vocabulary Activity
	1	Study Guide
	1	Vocabulary Quiz
	2	Comprehension Quizzes
	1	Final Exam
	1	Essay Suggestions
	1	Film Review Activity
	1	Project Suggestions
<b>PLUS</b>		Detailed Answer Key

### Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the Bantam softcover edition, ©1937 John Steinbeck, © renewed 1965. The page references may differ in other editions.

**Please note:** Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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**Imitating an Author's Style - I**

Reread the first paragraph of *Of Mice and Men* on page 1. This descriptive paragraph gives you a clear picture of what this place on the river is like. Although Steinbeck has mostly told you how the place *looks*, you can almost feel the warm water and the damp sand and hear a lizard skittering through the leaves or a deer lapping water at the river's edge.

Think of a place outdoors—it can be your own backyard, a favorite vacation spot, or a vacant lot. Close your eyes and spend some time imagining you are there. Make a few notes in the “thought balloon” map below. Then write a paragraph describing your outdoor place, using your notes and referring back to the Steinbeck paragraph as you try to imitate his style.

(Use the empty balloons for other ideas, thoughts, and feelings.)

**Location:**

**Terrain:**

**Smells:**

**Plants, trees, etc.:**

**Animals, birds, people:**

**Colors:**

**Sounds:**

**Action:**

**MY PLACE**





Name \_\_\_\_\_

### To Have a Friend...

Each of the quotations below concerns friendship. Think about each in relation to the friendship between George and Lennie. Decide if there is a correlation. Indicate your answer in the yes/no column, and then explain what the correlation is, or why you feel there is none.

Quotation	Correlation? Yes/No	Explanation
"Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with." Mark Twain		
"The bird a nest, the spider a web, man friendship." William Blake		
"Rather the bite of a friend than the kiss of an enemy." Sholom Aleichem		
"How I like to be liked, and what I do to be liked!" Charles Lamb		
"I do not want people to be very agreeable, as it saves me the trouble of liking them a great deal." Jane Austen		
"Most people enjoy the inferiority of their friends." Lord Chesterfield		

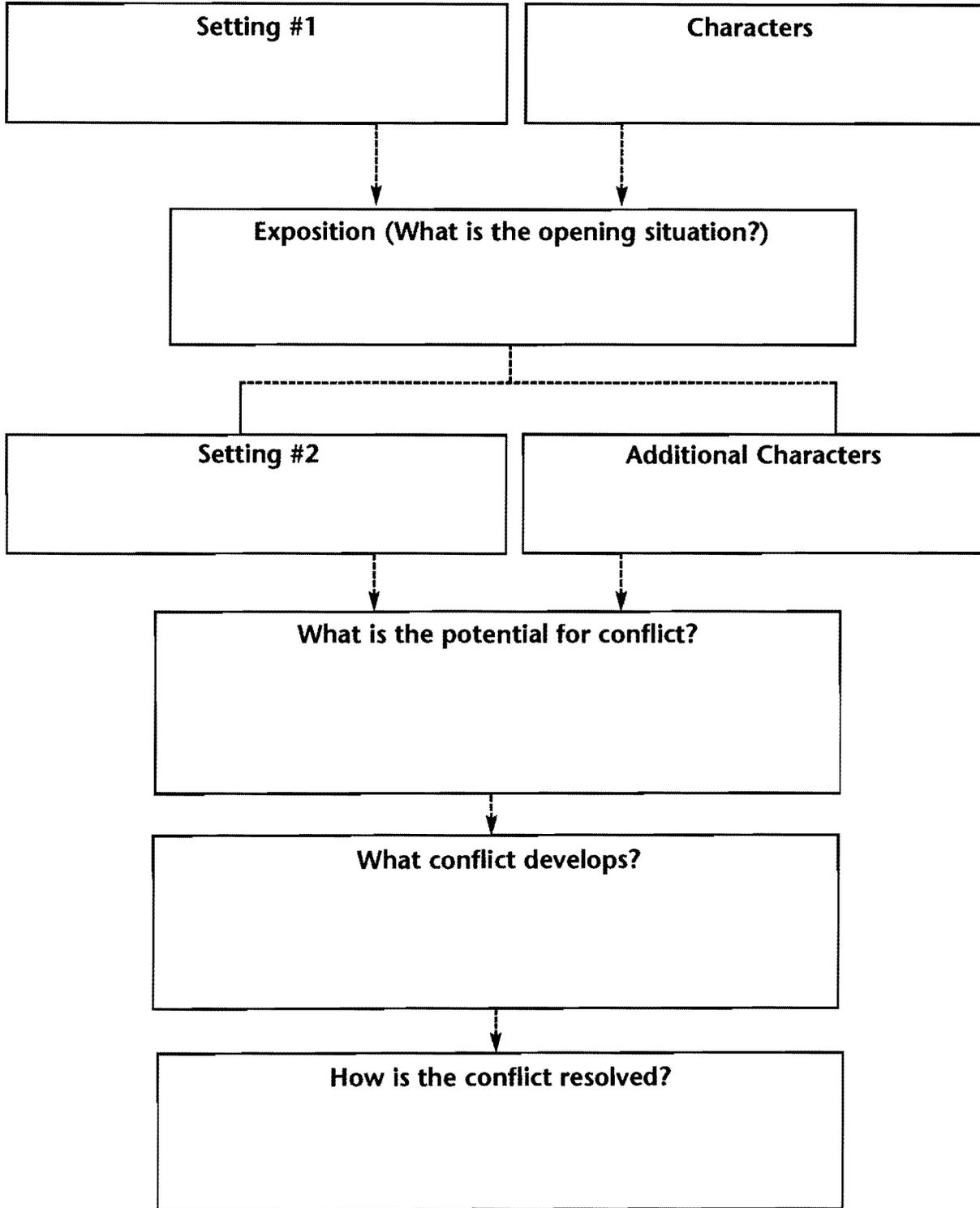
Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Character Chart

	Looks	Says	Acts	Others Say
George				
Lennie				
Curley				
Slim				
Candy				
Crooks				
Curley's Wife				

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Setting...Characters...Action!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Study Guide

#### Chapters 1 and 2

1. Identify the following people by telling something important about each one.

a. Lennie \_\_\_\_\_

b. George \_\_\_\_\_

c. Curley \_\_\_\_\_

d. Slim \_\_\_\_\_

e. Carlson \_\_\_\_\_

f. Candy \_\_\_\_\_

g. Crooks \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why does Lennie like little mice, puppies, and rabbits? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. a. When did George meet Lennie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. From his actions, how do you think George feels about Lennie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Why do you think George takes care of Lennie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe the dream that George and Lennie share? Be specific. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Lennie do in Weed to get in trouble? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 3 and 4**

1. Why doesn't Candy want to kill his dog? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are Candy's feelings understandable? Have you ever felt very attached to an old or sick animal that had to be put to sleep? Explain your feelings. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why does Candy say later on that he should have shot his dog himself and not let a stranger do it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did Curley pick on Lennie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe Curley's main problem in your opinion. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why didn't Lennie fight back at first when Curley hit him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What happened to Curley as a result of picking on Lennie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How does Crooks react to Lennie's appearance at the door of his room? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Crooks says people at the ranch don't like him because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Crooks invites Lennie to stay and talk with him because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 5 and 6**

1. What things does Lennie do or say that show he is mentally retarded? List at least three specific acts or incidents. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. a. Is George's treatment of Lennie fair? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Is George's treatment of Lennie understandable? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Could he have helped him more? How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How do these characters treat Lennie and why? Give one incident for each that shows his/her treatment of Lennie.

a. Candy \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Curley's wife \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Crooks \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do they all have in common? (Why do they all talk to him?) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why does Lennie kill the puppy and later the girl? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think Lennie had to be shot? What were some other alternatives? What would have happened to Lennie if George hadn't shot him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How is the killing of Lennie similar to the killing of Candy's dog? Why do you think George killed Lennie himself instead of letting the men do it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Root Words

**Directions**

Look up the following words ending in “ly.” They are adverbs—they *add* to the meaning of the *verb* with which they are used. Notice their **root words** or base words. Provide definitions for each word listed.

1. dejectedly \_\_\_\_\_

deject \_\_\_\_\_

dejected \_\_\_\_\_

2. apologetically \_\_\_\_\_

apology \_\_\_\_\_

apologize \_\_\_\_\_

3. craftily \_\_\_\_\_

craft \_\_\_\_\_

crafty \_\_\_\_\_

4. ominously \_\_\_\_\_

ominous \_\_\_\_\_

5. defensively \_\_\_\_\_

defense \_\_\_\_\_

defend \_\_\_\_\_

defensive \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

6. complacently \_\_\_\_\_

complacent \_\_\_\_\_

7. intensively \_\_\_\_\_

intensity \_\_\_\_\_

intense \_\_\_\_\_

tense \_\_\_\_\_

intensive \_\_\_\_\_

8. amusedly \_\_\_\_\_

amused \_\_\_\_\_

amuse \_\_\_\_\_

muse \_\_\_\_\_

9. contemptuously \_\_\_\_\_

contemptuous \_\_\_\_\_

contempt \_\_\_\_\_

10. dutifully \_\_\_\_\_

dutiful \_\_\_\_\_

duty \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Matching

Write the letter of the correct definition next to each word in the left-hand column.

- |       |                 |   |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| _____ | 1. dejected     | a. express regret; say you are sorry        |
| _____ | 2. apologize    | b. threatening; evil                        |
| _____ | 3. crafty       | c. entertain; make someone laugh            |
| _____ | 4. ominous      | d. showing great energy or emotion          |
| _____ | 5. defend       | e. cunning; skillfully deceitful            |
| _____ | 6. complacent   | f. to guard; protect                        |
| _____ | 7. intensive    | g. obedient; respectful                     |
| _____ | 8. amuse        | h. depressed; disheartened                  |
| _____ | 9. contemptuous | i. content; self-satisfied; smug            |
| _____ | 10. dutiful     | j. holding someone; something in low regard |

### Completion

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the given root word.

#### 11. deject

The team was \_\_\_\_\_ by the narrow loss.

I walked \_\_\_\_\_ into my room and closed the door.

#### 12. complacent

I dislike people who are too \_\_\_\_\_ toward an activity.

They acted very \_\_\_\_\_ about the entire incident.

#### 13. ominous

The weather looked so \_\_\_\_\_ that I couldn't go outside.

The vulture flew \_\_\_\_\_ over its helpless victim.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

14. **amuse**

I was \_\_\_\_\_ by the school play.  
His \_\_\_\_\_ act delighted us.  
People who tell funny stories \_\_\_\_\_ me.

15. **intense**

Going to court was a very \_\_\_\_\_ experience.  
The basketball team plays with great \_\_\_\_\_.  
The injured student had to be placed in \_\_\_\_\_ care.  
He researched the subject \_\_\_\_\_.

16. **duty**

Everyone must do his \_\_\_\_\_ if we are to finish on time.  
She \_\_\_\_\_ handed in her homework assignment.  
A \_\_\_\_\_ person always does what is expected of her.

17. **craft**

The pickpocket \_\_\_\_\_ removed the man's wallet from his pocket.  
He showed great \_\_\_\_\_ by outsmarting the policeman.  
The \_\_\_\_\_ robber entered the store.

18. **defense**

The army's \_\_\_\_\_ broke down, and it had to surrender.  
Many football games turn into \_\_\_\_\_ battles.  
The basketball team played \_\_\_\_\_.

19. **contempt**

The student turned and walked \_\_\_\_\_ away from the teacher.  
He showed his \_\_\_\_\_ by spitting in his enemy's face.  
Slapping someone's face is a \_\_\_\_\_ action.

20. **apology**

The student offered an \_\_\_\_\_ for his wild behavior.  
She wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ for missing her appointment.  
I tried to act \_\_\_\_\_ so as not to make my mistake any worse.

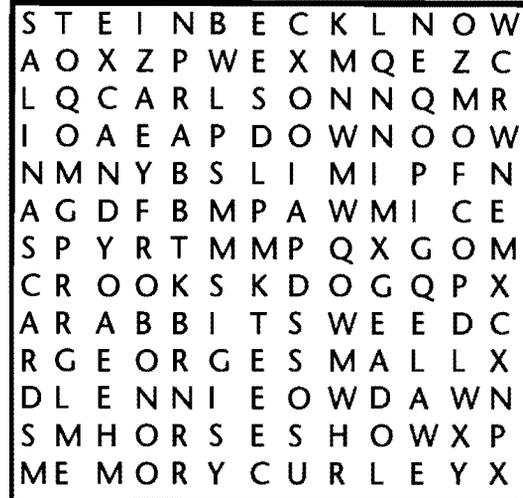
**On the back of your paper, write a sentence for one form of each root word.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Find****Directions**

The correct answers to the questions below are found in the Word Search puzzle at the right. As you fill in the blanks, circle the answer in the puzzle as well. Each blank is worth one point, but only if the answer is also circled in the puzzle.

For extra credit, circle and list other words you find in the puzzle (1/2 point for each extra word).



- The author of the novel (last name only) is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The story takes place near the \_\_\_\_\_ River.
- The owner of the "ancient" sheepdog is \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Tell about the \_\_\_\_\_, George."
- Lennie likes to pet them, but he often kills the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Lennie's companion is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The ranch men often played \_\_\_\_\_ in the bunkhouse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ shot Candy's dog.
- Lennie's ironic last name is \_\_\_\_\_.
- George says \_\_\_\_\_ is "dumb but not crazy."
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the town where Lennie "just wanted to feel the girl's dress."
- The mental ability that Lennie does not have is \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the husband of the "tart" and son of the boss.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the name of the stable buck.
- John Steinbeck's novel is called *Of Mice and* \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a "skinner" and the foreman of the barley buckers.

**Additional words found:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**True-False**

Write "true" if the statement is true and "false" if it is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Curley's wife came into the barn in order to get a date.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Lennie did not know he would hurt the girl if he touched her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. George thought there was a good chance Lennie would be taken alive after he killed Curley's wife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Curley's wife wore a simple dress the night she was killed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The weapon used to kill Lennie was a rifle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. George saw Curley kill Lennie.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The scene with Lennie and the dead puppy gives the reader a clue about what might happen with Curley's wife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The only person who did not go after Lennie in the end was Crooks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. In the end, George blamed Lennie for what he did.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The giant rabbit and Lennie's Aunt Clara were all in Lennie's imagination.

**Sequencing**

Put the following events in order—"1" before the first thing that happened, etc.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. George finds Lennie by the river.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The rabbit appears before Lennie.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Lennie kills Curley's wife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. George shoots Lennie.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. We see Lennie with the dead puppy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. George and Slim go off to have a drink.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Matching

In each section, match the letter of the character with his/her corresponding description. The letters may be used more than once.

a. Lennie      b. George      c. Curley      d. Curley's wife      e. Slim

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. One with great feeling for others; George confided to him about Lennie's experience in Weed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. One who said that he had almost started to believe the farm dream would come true.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The son of the boss of the ranch.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. One whom Lennie accidentally killed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. One who wanted to be a movie star.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The jerkline skinner on the ranch.

a. Candy      b. Crooks      c. Carlson      d. George      e. Curley

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The old swamper.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The man whose hand was crushed by Lennie.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The one who shoots an old dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The Negro stable buck on the ranch.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The man who is crippled by a crooked back.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The man who lost a hand and received \$250 because of it.

### Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer for each question.

13. Lennie can BEST be described as  
a. insane      b. mentally ill      c. mentally retarded      d. crazy
14. When Lennie and George go to the ranch, they get a job  
a. harvesting      b. baling hay      c. bucking barley      d. cleaning stalls
15. The setting of the story is  
a. Colorado      b. California      c. Kansas      d. New Mexico

Name \_\_\_\_\_

16. Lennie's favorite saying about the dream was
- a. "The barn will be full o' pups."
  - b. "We'll live off the fatta the lan'."
  - c. "The alfalfa will keep my rabbits fat and healthy."
  - d. "We'll have lotsa ketchup."
17. George and Lennie were late for their first day of work because
- a. it was a hot day for a walk
  - b. they missed their train because of the trouble in Weed
  - c. their horses were stolen at the pond
  - d. the bus driver let them off too far away
18. If Lennie got in trouble, he had instructions to
- a. find George right away
  - b. hide in the brush by the river
  - c. run away to the South
  - d. give himself up peacefully without a fight
19. Lennie talked about going to live in a cave because he
- a. wanted to be alone
  - b. wanted to make George angry
  - c. wanted to look for mice
  - d. wanted George to stop being mean to him
20. Lennie and George were very close. The saying they used to show this was:
- a. "I got you, 'n' you got me."
  - b. "We'll have lotsa rabbits and pups."
  - c. "We'll pull our stake and buy that farm."
  - d. "Nothin' is better than being together."
21. The point of view of the novel is
- a. first person/Lennie
  - b. first person/Steinbeck
  - c. third person/narrator
  - d. second person/narrator
22. The best description for Slim is
- a. "prince of the ranch"
  - b. "expert mule team driver"
  - c. "God-like" to the other men
  - d. all of these
23. After talking to Slim, George promised Lennie he would
- a. tell Slim about their dream
  - b. tell Slim to keep quiet
  - c. ask for a pup for Lennie
  - d. ask for more pay
24. Lennie started traveling and working with George when
- a. he was let out of an institution
  - b. his parents died
  - c. his aunt died
  - d. he was found wandering the streets
  - e. both c and d

Name \_\_\_\_\_

25. In both the first and last chapters of the book
- a. the setting is the same
  - b. George tells Lennie about the dream
  - c. Lennie is running away from trouble
  - d. all of these
  - e. only a and b
26. One similarity between the killing of the dog and the killing of Lennie is that they both
- a. were going to die of old age anyway
  - b. had gotten into trouble and deserved to die
  - c. smelled bad
  - d. would have had to suffer if they went on living
27. George told Slim that when he and Lennie were younger, George
- a. tried to teach Lennie to read and write but it didn't work
  - b. played tricks on Lennie but he was too dumb to realize it
  - c. tried to help Lennie get to know the other kids in the neighborhood
  - d. attempted to teach Lennie how to drive
28. One characteristic common to all the characters is
- a. indignity
  - b. loneliness
  - c. happiness
  - d. conceit
29. George let Candy join him and Lennie in their dream farm. Why?
- a. Candy said he would leave them his share in his will.
  - b. Candy offered to contribute money to buy the farm.
  - c. He would be useful to have around.
  - d. all of these
  - e. only b and c
30. If Lennie hadn't been \_\_\_\_\_, Curley wouldn't have started a fight.
- a. laughing
  - b. smiling
  - c. snickering
  - d. talking
31. George disliked Curley at their first meeting because
- a. Curley picked on Lennie
  - b. Curley threatened to fight George
  - c. of Curley's reputation as a boxer
  - d. Curley's wife was talking to George
32. Curley is always suspicious of the other ranch hands because
- a. he is checking up for the boss
  - b. he is bigger than them
  - c. he is looking for a fight
  - d. his wife is a tart



Name \_\_\_\_\_

42. Lennie harmed living things because
- a. he was a born killer
  - b. he didn't know his own strength
  - c. he liked to pet soft things
  - d. both a and b
  - e. both b and c
43. When Lennie realized he had killed Curley's wife, he did all of the following *except*
- a. said "I done a bad thing."
  - b. took the dead puppy with him
  - c. ran to a hiding place
  - d. ran to look for George
44. Who first found Curley's wife dead?
- a. Candy
  - b. Slim
  - c. George
  - d. Curley
45. Lennie went
- a. up into the mountains
  - b. to the Salinas River
  - c. back to Weed
  - d. to old Suzy's place
46. When Lennie was hiding, he talked to
- a. an imaginary rabbit
  - b. an imaginary Aunt Clara
  - c. a puppy
  - d. both a and b
47. George shot Lennie when
- a. they were sitting by the river
  - b. George was telling the story of the rabbits
  - c. George chased Lennie behind a bush
  - d. both a and b
  - e. none of these
48. The only person who really understood why George had to shoot Lennie was
- a. Slim
  - b. Carlson
  - c. Curley
  - d. Whit
49. George's killing of Lennie can BEST be compared to
- a. Lennie's killing mice
  - b. Lennie's killing of Curley's wife
  - c. the shooting of Candy's dog
  - d. Lennie's killing his pup
50. All of the following are themes (central ideas) of *Of Mice and Men* except
- a. a man desires to own his own land
  - b. a man does not have to be smart to be nice
  - c. a man is born to be selfish
  - d. a man's physical appearance has little to do with his personality
51. Men are like mice in that they
- a. are often helpless
  - b. often have plans that do not work out
  - c. are often trapped
  - d. all of these

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary

Match the letter of the sentence with the correct adverb.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| _____ 52. apologetically | a. A fox trying to snare a chicken is acting _____.   |
| _____ 53. craftily       | b. The hawk soared _____ in the sky above the scared rabbits.                               |
| _____ 54. ominously      | c. Someone who is being arrested and knows he is guilty will probably act _____.            |
| _____ 55. dejectedly     | d. A person saying he is sorry for something is acting _____.                               |
| _____ 56. defensively    | e. Lennie hung his head _____ when George yelled at him.                                    |
|                          |   |
| _____ 57. amusedly       | a. A maid or butler who kept his or her job would act _____.                                |
| _____ 58. contemptuously | b. Children would watch a clown _____.  |
| _____ 59. complacently   | c. Someone who is at peace with his world might sit _____ and think about good things.      |
| _____ 60. dutifully      | d. A detective in a long search for a known criminal would conduct his investigation _____. |
| _____ 61. intensively    | e. A student with a poor attitude might look at her teachers _____.                         |

### Short Answer

Answer each question briefly.

62. How did Lennie crush Curley's hand?

63. When the men found out Curley's wife was dead, what did they decide to do?

64. Why did Lennie kill his puppy?

65. How did George stop the other men from killing Lennie?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay Suggestions

Choose one of the following topics and write a well-developed essay. In your essay, be sure each paragraph has a topic sentence. Use enough reasons, examples, and specific details to back up your ideas. Make sure you have an introduction and a conclusion.

1. Discuss whether or not George's actions in the final scene were proper. Include a discussion of what the alternatives for Lennie would be, and compare them to what actually happened in the novel.
2. Discuss what will happen next to George and Candy. Be sure to give reasons for your suppositions. You should be careful that the futures you choose for the characters are possible and realistic.
3. Discuss the ways in which Steinbeck lets the reader know that Lennie is mentally retarded. Give specific examples from the book.
4. Discuss what might have happened to Curley's wife if she had not been killed. Would she leave Curley? Would she go to Hollywood? Invent a future for her.
5. Discuss what would have been the best sort of environment for Lennie. In what kind of place would he be able to do meaningful work, be happy, and stay out of trouble?
6. Discuss the effect of the Depression on the characters in the book.
7. Discuss a theme of the novel. What Truths about life are being stated by the author?
8. Write a comparison of two of the main characters, such as Curley and Slim, Candy and Carlson, Crooks and Lennie.
9. Summarize the story from Lennie's point of view.
10. Write on a topic of your own choosing. (Do not do a plot summary.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Evaluation: Rubric for Essay-Writing

The following is the set of criteria by which your essays will be graded. Use this sheet to check your essay before turning it in for a grade.

Criteria	Maximum number of points
1. Focus: Student writes a clear thesis and includes it in the opening paragraph.	10
2. Organization: The final draft reflects the assigned outline; transition words are used to link ideas.	15
3. Support: Sufficient details are cited to support the thesis; extraneous details are omitted.	15
4. Detail: Each quote or reference is explained (as if the teacher had not read the book); ideas are not redundant.	15
5. Mechanics: Spelling, capitalization, usage are correct.	15
6. Sentence structure: The student avoids run-ons and fragments. There is an interesting variety of sentences.	10
7. Verbs: All verbs are in the correct tense; sections in which the plot is summarized are in present tense.	10
8. Total effect of the essay (clarity, coherence, effectiveness):	10

Comments:

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Film: \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the Novel: \_\_\_\_\_

Movies based on novels are often different than the books on which they are based. Imagine you have been given a "sneak preview" of this film before it is released to the public. In exchange, the producers want your opinions on the following questions.

1. What are the differences between the film and the novel?

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2. Compare a character from the book with a character in the film. Was the character the way you pictured him/her? Is there another actor who would have been a better choice?

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3. How did the movie help you to better understand the book? Please be specific.

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## PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

1. Three to four students work as a group and create a wall mural of various scenes from *Of Mice and Men*. The major scenes can be depicted and then arranged in chronological order.
2. Write an original short story (2-4 pages) telling what happens after Slim and George walk away from the others at the end of the novel. Be sure to describe the setting and include information that will show the reader how George is reacting to killing Lennie.
3. Use the library to research a topic related to the novel. Suggestions for topics are: mental retardation, the Great Depression, ranching, mules, the importance of spaying female dogs, how your favorite movie star broke into film.
4. Write a 2-4 page paper comparing the novel to the film. Discuss as many similarities and differences as you can find.
5. Create a poetry notebook. Write your own poem about each of the following themes from the novel: loneliness, friendship, hopes and dreams, people who are "different," death. Then locate poems on the same subjects by other poets. You may illustrate your notebook if you wish.
6. In a small group, brainstorm other possible titles for the novel which show the same kind of contrast (men are powerful, mice are meek).
7. Find the Salinas River and Soledad, California. Draw a map indicating their locations. In a magazine find pictures that look the way you think the forest where Lennie hid looked. Also find pictures that look like the ranch. Make a collage with your pictures and map.
8. Friendships are usually the result of people having something in common. As a whole group, take a classroom survey to find out what everyone has in common. The survey sheet should contain questions such as "What is your favorite sport?," "...favorite TV show?," "... best subject?" and so forth. After the survey questions are returned, a committee can tally and report the replies.

## Answer Key

### Study Guide

#### Chapters 1 and 2

- 1a. Lennie Small is mentally retarded. He is George's companion.
- 1b. George Milton is Lennie's companion and only friend.
- 1c. Curley is the boss's son and is married to the "tart."
- 1d. Slim is the jerkline skinner, boss of the grain team.
- 1e. Carlson is a fat man who wants to get rid of Candy's old dog.
- 1f. Candy is the old hired hand and owns the old dog.
- 1g. Crooks is the Black stable buck.
2. Lennie likes to pet and hold soft things.
- 3a. George met Lennie when Lennie's aunt died.
- 3b. George has mixed feelings about Lennie.
- 3c. Lennie is a nuisance because he is constantly in need of immediate supervision due to his tendency to get into trouble. On the other hand, George feels sorry for Lennie because he can't help what he does. George promised Lennie's aunt he'd look after Lennie.
4. George and Lennie's dream is to own their own land, farm it, and raise rabbits.
5. Lennie felt a woman's dress in Weed, and she said he had raped her.

#### Chapters 3 and 4

1. Candy doesn't want to kill his old dog because he has had it since it was a pup. Most students will say that this is understandable. Encourage them to express their own feelings about a similar situation. Candy later feels he was a coward for not shooting his dog himself. Perhaps he feels he should have been with him in his last moments.
2. Lennie was smiling, and Curley thought Lennie was laughing at him. Curley's main problem is jealousy and his need to be a big shot, and the fact that his wife is constantly making him look like a fool by flirting with the men on the ranch. Lennie didn't fight back at first because George had told him not to. Curley's hand was crushed by Lennie.
3. When Lennie first appeared at Crooks' door, Crooks didn't want him there. Crooks says people dislike him because he's Black—at least he can have the dignity and privacy of his own room. When Lennie tells Crooks about the dream, Crooks at first does not believe him. When Candy confirms it, Crooks wants to be part of it and acts more friendly.

#### Chapters 5 and 6

1. Evidence to show Lennie's mental retardation: he acts like a child of about 6; has trouble remembering; is attached to George the way a small child is to a parent; kills small, soft things. Other people immediately notice there is something "wrong."
  - 2a. Most students will probably say that George's treatment of Lennie is not always fair.
  - 2b. Most students will probably answer "yes." Discussion in class should definitely follow.
  - 2c. Perhaps George could have taken Lennie to a doctor or mental health specialist who could have helped him or found a place for him to stay. At the time the book was written, however, mental hospitals still tended to be of the "madhouse" variety. In your class discussion, you might want to talk about what could be done for Lennie today in your community.
- 3a. Candy likes Lennie and shows his companionship because Lennie wants to share his dream with him.
- 3b. Curley's wife is afraid of Lennie; however, she wants to talk to him in the barn nonetheless. Her loneliness outweighs her fear.
- 3c. Crooks likes Lennie because Lennie genuinely wants to be friends; Lennie is unaware of racial differences and treats Crooks with kindness and respect. All of the characters are very lonely, and each has some flaw. Candy is old and has lost a hand, Crooks suffers racial slurs and is crippled, and Curley's wife is a tease.

4. Lennie hits the puppy to try to teach him not to bite. He doesn't realize his own strength—his blow kills the pup. When Curley's wife invites him to touch her soft hair, he doesn't want to let go. This frightens the girl, who begins screaming. Lennie, in trying to quiet her, breaks her neck. Both acts are completely unintentional.
5. This is student opinion, although most students will probably say that Lennie had to be shot because his punishment would have been too hard for him to bear. If the mob of men from the ranch had gotten to him before George shot him, he would have been frightened and confused. Even if they had shot him, it would have been a sharp contrast to the way George shot him, while Lennie was happily thinking of taking care of the rabbits. If he had been arrested for murder, he would have undoubtedly been locked up for life, not understanding what was happening to him, taken away from George and the dream.
6. Both deeds were done "for their own good."

### Vocabulary Quiz

- |                                  |                                      |   |  |  |      |      |      |      |       |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. h                             | 2. a                                 | 3. e                                    | 4. b   | 5. f   | 6. i | 7. d | 8. c | 9. j | 10. g |
| 11. dejected<br>dejectedly       | 12. complacent<br>complacent(ly)     | 13. ominous<br>ominously                | 14. amused<br>amusing<br>amuse                 | 15. intense<br>intensity<br>intensive<br>intensively |      |      |      |      |       |
| 16. duty<br>dutifully<br>dutiful | 17. craftily<br>craftiness<br>crafty | 18. defense<br>defensive<br>defensively | 19. contemptuously<br>contempt<br>contemptuous | 20. apology<br>apologize<br>apologetic               |      |      |      |      |       |

### Word Search Quiz

(Chapters 1-3)

- |              |            |          |            |
|--------------|------------|----------|------------|
| 1. Steinbeck | 2. Salinas | 3. Candy | 4. rabbits |
| 5. mice      | 6. George  | 7. cards | 8. Carlson |
| 9. Small     | 10. Lennie | 11. Weed | 12. memory |
| 13. Curley   | 14. Crooks | 15. men  | 16. Slim   |

#### Additional Words

stein, now, son, down, no, paw, ice, spy, go, crook, dog, arab, bit, or, dawn, horse, show, curl, me, in, to, and, rob, on, is, so, do, pig, awe (29 total)

Students may find more.

## Chapters 4-6 Quiz

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F  | 2. T  | 3. F  | 4. F  | 5. F  |
| 6. F  | 7. T  | 8. F  | 9. F  | 10. T |
| 11. 4 | 12. 3 | 13. 2 | 14. 5 | 15. 1 |
| 16. 6 | 17. d | 18. d | 19. d | 20. b |

21. Lennie told Crooks about the farm dream. At first, Crooks told him he was crazy. Then he wanted to join them.
22. He was sure the "tart" would cause trouble.
23. that George would no longer want to buy the farm
24. Both are unwanted by anyone except their best (and only) friends. They are both hard workers, loyal, and basically harmless. Both had to die "for their own good."
25. To prevent Lennie's being killed by the mob, George started telling him about the dream and quickly shot him in the head so he would never know what happened.

## Final Exam

- |       |       |       |       |         |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1. e  | 2. b  | 3. c  | 4. d  | 5. d    | 6. e  |
| 7. a  | 8. e  | 9. c  | 10. b | 11. b   | 12. a |
| 13. c | 14. c | 15. b | 16. b | 17. d   | 18. b |
| 19. d | 20. a | 21. c | 22. d | 23. c   | 24. c |
| 25. d | 26. d | 27. b | 28. b | 29. d   | 30. b |
| 31. a | 32. d | 33. b | 34. d | 35. a   | 36. c |
| 37. d | 38. c | 39. a | 40. b | 41. e/d | 42. e |
| 43. d | 44. a | 45. b | 46. d | 47. d   | 48. a |
| 49. c | 50. c | 51. d | 52. d | 53. a   | 54. b |
| 55. e | 56. c | 57. b | 58. e | 59. c   | 60. a |
61. d
62. Lennie was too frightened to let go when they were fighting.
63. find Lennie and kill him
64. He was trying to teach the puppy not to bite, and hit it too hard.
65. He shot Lennie himself.