

## Of Mice and Men Chapter 5 Analysis

Read the following passage from page 95 and answer the questions that follow.

Old Candy watched him go. He looked helplessly back at Curley's wife, and gradually his sorrow and his anger grew into words. "you God damn tramp," he said viciously. "You done it, di'n't you? I s'pose you're glad. Ever'body knowed you'd mess things up. You wasn't no good. You ain't no good now, you lousy tart." He sniveled, and his voice shook. "I could of hoed in the garden and washed dishes for them guys." He paused and then went on in singsong. And he repeated the old words: "If they was a circus or a baseball game...we would of went to her...jus' said 'ta hell with work, 'an' went to her. Never ast nobody's say so. An' they'd of been a pig and chickens...an' in the winter...the little fat stove...an' the rain comin'...an' us jes' settin' there." His eyes blinded with tears and he turned and went weakly out of the barn, and he rubbed his bristly whiskers with his wrist stump.

Outside the noise of the game stopped. There was a rise of voices in question, a drum of running feet, and the men burst into the barn. Slim and Carlson and young Whit and Curley, and Crooks keeping back out of attention range. Candy came after them, and last of all came George. George had put on his blue denim coat and buttoned it, and his black hat was pulled down low over his eyes. The men raced around the last stall. Their eyes found Curley's wife in the gloom. They stopped and stood and looked.

1. At the beginning of paragraph 1, Candy is characterized as:
  - A. Angry and aggressive
  - B. Sad but determined
  - C. Old and tired but still hopeful
  - D. Old, crippled, and defeated
2. The last sentence of paragraph 1 characterizes Candy as:
  - A. Angry and aggressive
  - B. Sad but determined
  - C. Old and tired but still hopeful
  - D. Old, crippled, and defeated
3. What is ironic about the way Candy talks to Curley's wife in paragraph 1?
  - A. You wouldn't expect a murder victim to be described as "glad."
  - B. You would expect Curley's wife to be called a tramp
  - C. Nobody expected Curley's wife to "mess things up."
  - D. You wouldn't expect Candy to be mad that he can't go with George and Lennie.
4. Which of the following is the best inference about Crooks in paragraph 2?
  - A. He keeps back because he doesn't like the other men.

- B. He tries to avoid attention because he feels responsible for what happened in the barn.
  - C. He keeps back because, being black, he fears the men might blame him for killing Curley's wife.
  - D. He avoids attention because he doesn't want the others to know that he plans to join George, Lennie, and Candy on their ranch.
5. The description of George in paragraph 2 makes him seem:
- A. Angry about what Lennie did
  - B. Like he blames Crooks for what has happened
  - C. Saddened by the death of Curley's wife
  - D. Like he's trying to hide something from the other men

12-16 Match each quote to the thematic idea from *Of Mice and Men* that it addresses:

a) loneliness	b) discrimination	c) friendship	d) following one's dreams	e. power
---------------	-------------------	---------------	---------------------------	----------

1. She turned on him in scorn. "Listen, Nigger," she said. "You know what I can do to you if you open your trap?"
2. Lennie broke in. "But not us! An' why? Because... because I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you, and that's why." He laughed delightedly. "Go on now, George!"
3. "And when it rains in the winter, we'll just say the hell with goin' to work, and we'll build up a fire in the stove and set around it an' listen to the rain comin' down on the roof—Nuts!"
4. Her face grew angry. "Wha's the matter with me?" she cried. "Ain't I got a right to talk to nobody? Whatta they think I am, anyways?"
5. Lennie twisted with embarrassment.  
George said, "S'pose he don't want to talk?"  
Curley lashed his body around. "By Christ, he's gotta talk when he's spoke to. What the hell are you gettin' into it for?"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

### 5 paragraph essay on theme...

In every bit of honest writing in the world there is a base theme: Try to understand men. If you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing a man well never leads to hate and nearly always leads to love. There are shorter means, many of them... but always that base theme. *Try to understand each other.*

—John Steinbeck

1. Choose a thematic element from the list below:

dreams      discrimination      friendship      loneliness      power

2. Put a check next to the names of 3 characters who are *most* directly affected by that thematic element:

George	Lennie	Candy
Crooks	Curley	Curley's wife

3. For each character, identify their main conflict with that thematic element:

- a.
- b.
- c.

4. Do they resolve their conflict? What is the outcome?

5. What is the author trying to say?

In _____ <small>(title of work)</small>	_____ writes about / uses _____ <small>(author's name)</small> <span style="float: right;"><small>(thematic idea)</small></span>	to explore / reveal / portray / convey / suggest / show the reader _____  _____ <small>(theme- make a claim about your thematic idea)</small>
--	---	---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

### 5 paragraph essay on theme...

In every bit of honest writing in the world there is a base theme: Try to understand men. If you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing a man well never leads to hate and nearly always leads to love. There are shorter means, many of them... but always that base theme. *Try to understand each other.*

—John Steinbeck

1. Choose a thematic element from the list below:

dreams

discrimination

friendship

loneliness

power

2. Put a check next to the names of 3 characters who are *most* directly affected by that thematic element:

George

Lennie

Candy

Crooks

Curley

Curley's wife

3. For each character, identify their main conflict with that thematic element:

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

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

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

4. Do they resolve their conflict? What is the outcome?

5. What is the author trying to say?

In \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ writes about / uses \_\_\_\_\_  
(title of work) (author's name) (thematic idea)  
to explore / reveal / portray / convey / suggest / show the reader \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(theme- make a claim about your thematic idea)