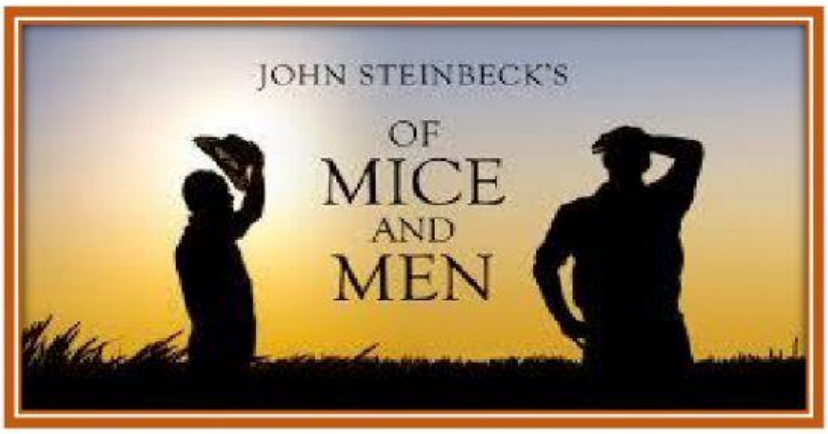


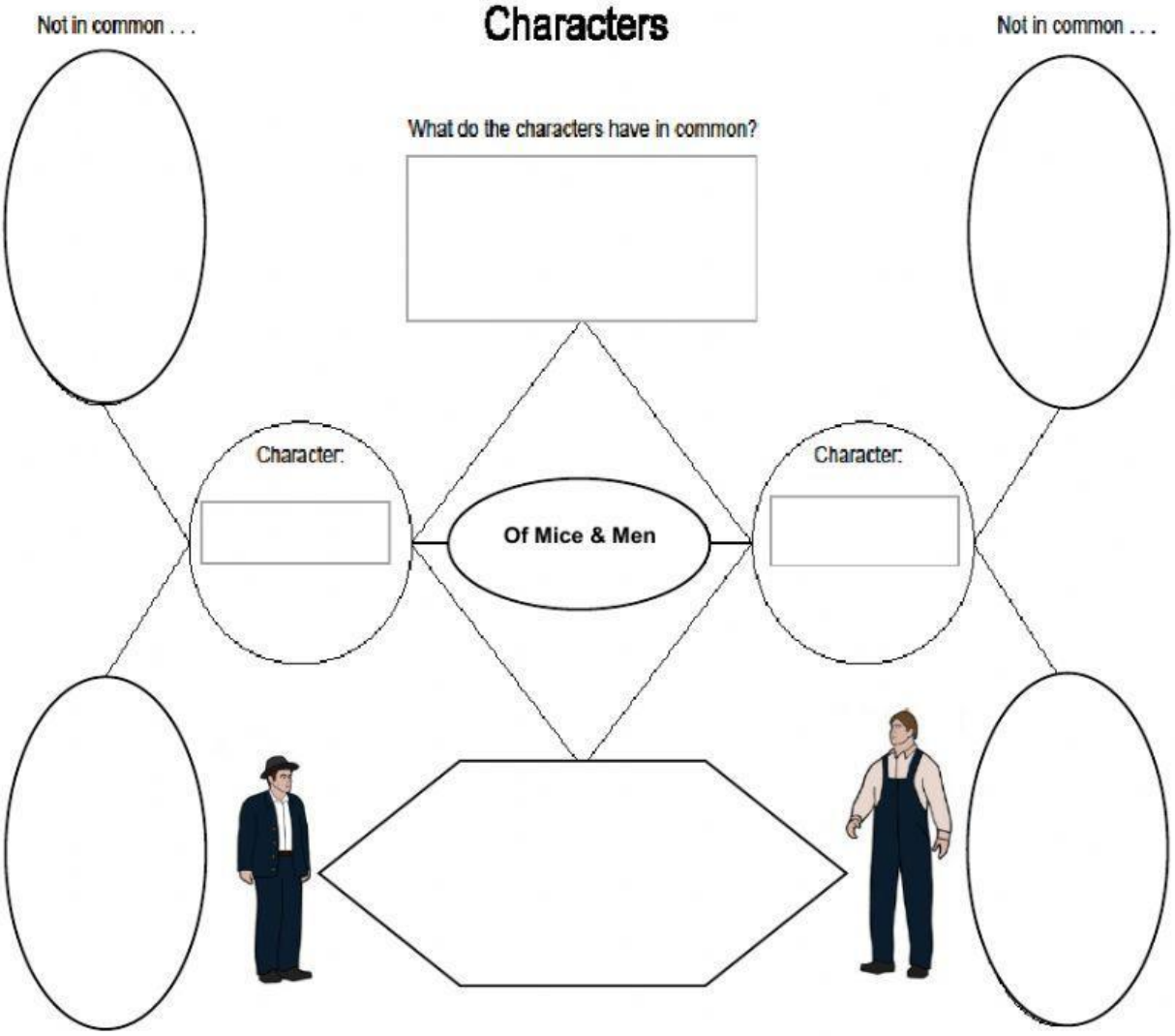
Introducing the Characters of George and Lennie

- Steinbeck opens his novella with some vivid description of a clearing by the river bed in the Salinas Valley, California.
- The two main characters, George and Lennie, enter into the clearing, simultaneously disrupting and engaging with the clearing's natural setting.
- Look at the video about itinerant (wandering) farmworkers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTqBY_HbESA

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- George and Lennie are itinerant (wandering) farmworkers. Look at the description of them on p19. Visually, how are they similar and how are they different?



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LIVEWORKSHEETS

What do we learn about their relationship from the following quotes?
SELECT THE CORRECT CHOICE

- *'Lennie, who had been watching, imitated George exactly.'*

Friendship, respect, innocence, loneliness, weakness, isolation	Fear, respect, drugs, irresponsibility, lack of values

- *So you forgot that awready, did you? I got to tell you again, do I? Jesus Christ you're a crazy bastard!'*

George's thinks Lennie is an obstacle.	Despite George's temper. He has to look after Lennie.

- *'Think I'd let you carry your own work card?'*

George's ambition.	George's power over Lennie. He's got the control of the situation.

- *'Good boy.'*

Friendship, protection.	Superiority.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT (SELECT THE CORRECT CHOICE)

- Why does George tell Lennie to keep quiet when they first get to the ranch?

Because they want to get the job in the ranch and if Lennie speaks, they may not have it.	Because they want to have a house with two acres and if Lennie speaks, they may not have it.

- What is the significance of George's reference to 'the bad things … like you done in Weed.'

George wants to be sure Lennie remembers what happened before.	George wants to torture Lennie with the same idea.

- When Lennie remembers what happened in Weed, the narrator describes how he 'exploded triumphantly.' Why is this an effective choice of words?

Because the autor shows that after all, Lennie remembers everything George told.	Because the autor shows that George can tell the story over and over.

- Do you think that George resents Lennie? Support your answer with evidence from the chapter.

Yes. Lennie is hurt and tells George he can survive by himself.	No. Lennie doesn't understand George's words and intention.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Are these sentence TRUE OR FALSE? (SELECT THE CORRECT CHOICE)

1. Lennie returns from gathering wood for the fire with a secret mouse. True False
2. When George demands that Lennie give him the mouse, the narrator compares Lennie to a Labrador. True False
3. Lennie rejected the rubber mouse that Aunt Clara gave him because it scared him. True False
4. Lennie likes his beans with Mayonaise. True False
5. George resents the burden that Lennie represents and sometimes wishes he could be free to live his life as he pleases. True False
6. Lennie got them both into trouble at their last town, Weed. He tried to stroke a girl's dress because it felt like a mouse. True False
7. George feels guilty after ranting on about how Lennie so often gets them into trouble. True False
8. George offers to leave Lennie and go and live alone in a cave. True False

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LENNIE AS AN ANIMAL

In **Chapter One**, Lennie is compared to a number of different animals.

- Find examples of these comparisons and explain their usefulness in Steinbeck's portrayal of the character of Lennie.

Quick Question

- To what extent can Lennie be described as manipulative in this chapter? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

1. *What is George and Lennie's shared dream?*
2. *What picture of the future does George depict?*
3. *What is Lennie's favourite part of the dream?*

Dreaming

(SELECT THE CORRECT CHOICE)

George hopes this dream comes true so that he can lead a "better" life.

Lennie dreams of taking care of the rabbits and other animals

George and Lennie's dream for the future is to one day own a farm with lots of rabbits.

LIVEWORKSHEETS