

Directions: Below fill in the chart. Use quotes when needed and page numbers.

Character	Physical Appearance	Personality & Behavior
George		
Lennie		
Slim		
Candy		
Crooks		
Carlson		
Curley		
Curley's Wife		
Aunt Clara		
The Boss		

Characterization Chart

Chapter 1

1. Identify and give a physical description of Lennie and George.
2. What is George's first complaint to Lennie?
3. What trouble did George and Lennie have in Weed?
4. What is in Lennie's pocket? Why does he have it?
5. George bursts into a long speech about what he could do if he were alone. What could he do?
6. Lennie offers to go away and live in a cave. What is George's response?
7. Why are George and Lennie different from the other "guys like us that work on ranches"?
8. What are George and Lennie going to do someday?
9. What two things does George want Lennie to remember?
10. Why did George want to camp overnight instead of going another quarter of a mile to the ranch?

Chapter 2

1. What does George answer when the boss asks what he is trying to put over?
2. Identify and describe Curley.
3. The swamper said, "Seems like Curley ain't givin' nobody a chance." Explain.
4. What advice does George give Lennie after Curley and the swamper leave?
5. Identify Slim and Carlson.
6. What does Slim have that Lennie wants?

Chapters 1 and 2



CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

Chapter 3

1. Slim and George have a long conversation. Slim says it's funny how George and Lennie go around together. What is George's answer?
2. Identify Candy.
3. What did Carlson do with his Luger? Why?
4. What card game does George play?
5. Describe Curley's wife. What's the problem about her?
6. What will Lennie's job be when he and George get their land?
7. What does Candy want when he hears about George's and Lennie's plans? What is he willing to contribute?
8. Why did Curley fight with Lennie? What happened?

Chapter 4

1. Identify Crooks.
2. Lennie tells Crooks about the land. What is his reply at first?
3. What does Crooks want when he believes there might really be land?
4. Why did Curley's wife come to the barn?
5. Why did Crooks change his mind after Curley's wife left?

Chapters 3 and 4

Chapter 5

1. What happened to Lennie's puppy? What is his reaction?
2. Why did Curley's wife come to see Lennie?
3. What did she tell Lennie?
4. Why did Lennie kill Curley's wife?
5. What was George's reaction when he found out about Curley's wife's death?
6. What was Curley's reaction to his wife's death?

Chapter 6

1. How and why did George kill Lennie?
2. Who is the only one who really understands what George did?

Chapters 5 and 6



CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

Bindle: A bag, sack, or carrying device.
Bindle Stiff: Hobo; transient who carries his belongings in a sack.
Bunk House: A sleeping quarters intended for use by multiple people.
Talcum Powder: Very similar in texture to baby powder, talcum powder was used mainly after bathing or shaving.
Apple Box: A box used for storage or as a stepstool capable of holding a person's weight.
Scourges: A widespread affliction, an epidemic illness or the consequence of some natural disaster, like fire, flood...
Pants Rabbits: A sexually transmitted disease, known as pubic lice.
Graybacks: The equivalent of ticks or lice.
Liniment: A topical cream for the skin that helps with pain or rashes.
Jerkline Skinner: Lead driver of a team of mules
Stable Buck: A derogatory name for an African-American man who works in the stables.
Stetson Hat: A famous brand of hats, especially cowboy hats.
Swamper: A general assistant; handyman.
Murray and Ready: An employment agency, specializing in farm work.
Work Slips: Proof that people had been hired to do a job.
Cultivator: A farming tool used to stir and soften the soil either before or after planting.
Cesspool: A well or pit filled with drainage or sewage.
Slough: A muddy or marshy area.
Tart: A woman who tempts men or who is sexually promiscuous.
Buck Barley: To throw large bags of barley on a truck.
Lynch: To illegally execute a person, generally applied to the hanging and/or burning of African-Americans in the south.
Slug of Whiskey: Equivalent to a hipflask of whiskey.
Gut Ache: A stomach ache.

Pulp Magazine: During the 1920s-1950s, inexpensive fiction magazines. From 1950 on, it also represented mass market paperbacks.
Luger: The Luger pistol was an expensive, high maintenance weapon manufactured and used primarily in the German army.
Euchre: A card game played in England, Canada, and some parts of the U.S.
Two Bits: Twenty-Five cents.
Rag Rug: Rugs created from rags that were tied together by knots.
Kewpie Doll: A particular style of doll, one that was usually won at carnivals.
Phonograph: The first device for recording and playing sound, most specifically music.
Parlor House: Could be considered a restaurant, but more often parlor houses were brothels.
Hutches: A form of furniture, very similar to a wardrobe.
Welter: To become very drunk or sorrowful.
Nail keg: A wooden barrel that could usually hold 100 pounds or more inside.
Russian Hill: Affluent residential neighborhood in San Francisco, California.
Travels with a Donkey: Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes (1879), one of Robert Louis Stevenson's earliest published works.
Varro: Marcus Terentius Varro (116-29 B.C.E.), Roman scholar/author and horticulturist.
Velasquez's Cardinal: Seventeenth-century painting by Spanish painter Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velasquez.
Zane Grey: American adventure novelist (1872-1939).
Airedale: A type of dog, specifically Terrier.

Glossary and Cultural References



CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

Life Time:

February 27, 1902 Salina, California – December 20, 1968 in New York at age 66

Childhood:

Only child to John Ernst (treasurer) and Olive Hamilton Steinbeck (teacher)
Avid reader as a child - specifically Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*
Decided to be a writer at age 14

Adulthood:

Started at Stanford University in 1919
Left without a degree in 1925 and moved to New York working odd jobs
Returned to California in 1927
Married Carol (his first wife) in 1930 – Divorced in 1943
Published *Of Mice and Men* in 1937

Originally written as a play about the Great Depression meant to be performed for illiterate farm workers
His dog tore the manuscript and he rewrote the novel
The play was produced soon after – both the novel and the play were a huge success
Pulitzer Prize in 1939

Married Gwendolyn (his second wife) in 1943 – Divorced in 1948
Had 2 sons – Thomas and John

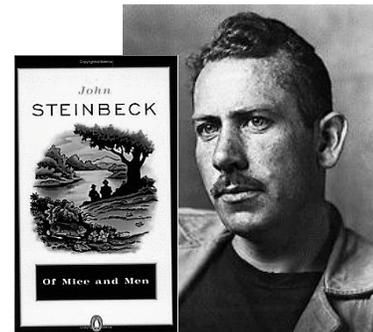
Married Elaine (his third wife) in 1950
Received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962

Famous Works: *Tortilla Flat*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *East of Eden*, and *of Mice and Men*
Wrote 28 novels total
Strength and determination of the human spirit
Several of his novels take place in Salinas Valley – 25 miles off the Pacific Coast

Setting:

A small working ranch in the Salinas Valley of northern California, sometime during the 1930s.

The action occurs over a period of three days and in four specific locations: a wooded area next to the Salinas River, a bunkhouse on the ranch, the stable hand's room on the ranch, and the main barn on the ranch. The tight structure of setting, revolving around single locations and continuous timing, make the novella seem almost as if it were set as a play. On a broader scale, it's important that the action takes place during the Great Depression.



STEINBECK COUNTRY



John Steinbeck and Novel Background



CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

***Symbols (what does each symbolize?)**

American Dream _____

Rabbits _____

Mice _____

***Themes**

Friendship _____

Loneliness _____

Freedom _____

Innocence _____

Justice _____

***Foreshadowing**

George telling Lennie where to meet in case he gets in trouble _____

Candy's dog is killed _____

Lennie accidentally kills the mouse _____

Themes • Symbols • Foreshadowing



CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

- Following World War I, a recession led to a drop in the market price of farm crops and caused Great Plains farmers to increase their productivity through mechanization and the cultivation of more land. This increase in farming activity required an increase in spending that caused many farmers to become financially overextended. The stock market crash in 1929 only served to exacerbate this already tenuous economic situation. Many independent farmers lost their farms when banks came to collect on their notes, while tenant farmers were turned out when economic pressure was brought to bear on large landholders. The attempts of these displaced agricultural workers to find other work were met with frustration due to a 30 percent unemployment rate.
- Why did so many of the refugees pin their hopes for a better life on California? One reason was that the state's mild climate allowed for a long growing season and a diversity of crops with staggered planting and harvesting cycles. For people whose lives had revolved around farming, this seemed like an ideal place to look for work. Popular songs and stories, circulating in oral tradition for decades exaggerated these attributes, depicting California as a veritable promised land. In addition, flyers advertising a need for farm workers in the Southwest were distributed in areas hard hit by unemployment. Finally, the country's major east-west thoroughfare, U.S. Highway 66 -- also known as "Route 66," "The Mother Road," "The Main Street of America," and "Will Rogers Highway" -- abetted the westward flight of the migrants.
- California was emphatically not the promised land of the migrants' dreams. Although the weather was comparatively balmy and farmers' fields were bountiful with produce, Californians also felt the effects of the Depression. Local and state infrastructures were already overburdened, and the steady stream of newly arriving migrants was more than the system could bear. After struggling to make it to California, many found themselves turned away at its borders. Those who did cross over into California found that the available labor pool was vastly disproportionate to the number of job openings that could be filled.

The Great Depression, Migrant Workers, and California



CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE