Of Mice and Men

“Guy don't need no sense to be a nice fella.”

“We could live of- fa the fatta the lan’.”

“Just like heaven. Ever’body wants a little piece of lan’.”

“A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody.”

“Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world.”

Of Mice and Men is a classic book that students remember years after they read it because of its memorable characters and touching story.

This packet is our work for the whole book. Bring it and your book every day until we’re done. Don’t lose this packet; it’s just too many pages. You will not be given an extra copy, but will instead need to handwrite your own worksheets to complete the work. (Psst: it’s a magic packet; it will decrease in size, eventually disappear, and transform into POINTS in the gradebook!)

Don’t work ahead. You won’t be doing every worksheet as individual homework. Just wait until it’s assigned in class. If you miss school, check the wiki for the assignment.

As we finish the worksheets and activities, you’ll tear them off from the back and hand them in. All work must be completed on your own unless instructed in class to work with others. Copied work will not be given credit, neither for the student who copied nor the one who allowed his/her work to be copied.
At the beginning of this chapter, where is Lennie?

Lennie has two visions. Describe them, and what they visions “say” to Lennie. Vision one is of _________________ and it’s about:

Vision two is of _________________ and it’s about:

What did George and Lennie talk about?

Explain in detail what happened at the end.

If you were writing chapter 7, what would you have happen next?
Chapter 5 (84-98)

At the beginning of this chapter, where is Lennie and why?

What details does Curley’s wife share on pages 87 and 88 that makes the reader feel sorry for her?

Explain in detail what happened on pages 89-92.

What do the following characters do or say in reaction to what happened on pages 89-92?

George:

Candy:

Slim:

Curley:

When you think back on the story, how might you have been able to guess that this was going to happen? What events lead up to this event? Be specific.
Of Mice and Men follows the plot structure diagram well. The rising action has increasing tension and meaning. Write some sentences of exposition that explain the situation as the story begins. Plot 5 events on the rising action, name the climax, name a falling action event, and speculate what’s going to happen next.

Plan the rising action events carefully, so you can include what you think must be included for a reader to understand the text, and so you don’t include items that matter less than the key points.

Exposition:

When you think back, what do you think the main “hints” were that this was going to happen? Name 2-3 specific details.

Climax as of the end of chapter 5

What do you think is will happen next?
Chapter 4 (66-83)

Name _________________________________

From the description of Crooks’ living quarters on page 66-67, what do you learn about his life and what he values? Give at least 3 specifics.

Compare the different perspectives on the “dream” that Crooks shares on page 74 to what Candy shares on page 76.

Compare the way Curley’s wife acts on pages 80-81 to how Crooks acted toward Lennie on pages 71-73. What message do you think Steinbeck is trying to give through these characters?

Nobody really “fits” in this scene. Why? Be specific; don’t just name the problem. Share why it’s a problem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lennie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curley’s wife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In each box, choose the characters of *Of Mice and Men* who might have looked as the face does. First, define the emotion the face shows. Then choose 2 characters who might have looked like that. You may use characters twice if you want. Your example must be specific. See the back for part 2.

Name ______________________________

This face looks:

One character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because

This is found on page _____

Another character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

This face looks:

One character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because

This is found on page _____

Another character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

This face looks:

One character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

Another character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

This face looks:

One character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

Another character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

One character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

Another character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

This face looks:

One character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

Another character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

One character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____

Another character who may have looked like this is: __________
Because:

This is found on page _____
For each, choose your better of the two examples for each face from the other side. Write a sentence of explanation and ending a supporting quote from the text. Five different characters must be represented in these answers. It should look and sound like this:

This face looks troubled, like Dougie when he thinks about the rat he saw at the football game. He says, "I am thinking about rats and the bubonic plague. Garbage eating rats covered with lice and fleas and bacteria" (Hautman 34).

Look at my example to make sure you get the punctuation right. Write a second sentence of explanation of your idea. Write a second sentence that includes a quote from the text that includes a quote from the text. It should start with your own words or introduction, like "George said," or "Steinbeck wrote,". Include Steinbeck and the page number in parentheses right after the quote, with the period at the very end.
Write the names of the two main characters and give a short description of each.

We might wonder why the book has the title *Of Mice and Men*. So far, in what way has the title connected to the contents of the first few chapters?

Where have the men come from? Tell what you know about their history together so far.

**Draw a line from the character to the description.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swamper/ Candy</td>
<td>He wants to kill Candy’s dog because it’s old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curley</td>
<td>He’s short and mean and is the boss’s son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curley’s wife</td>
<td>He likes mice and rabbits because they’re soft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slim</td>
<td>He’s an old man without a hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George</td>
<td>He takes care of his friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lennie</td>
<td>She’s always looking for her new husband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlson</td>
<td>He’s tall and everybody seems to respect him</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose a character</th>
<th>Why is the character possibly dangerous?</th>
<th>What kind of trouble might they cause?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>
John Steinbeck lets the characters have dreams, but he also shows us that they will each have struggles. What are the dreams and struggles for the following characters? Be specific.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dreams</th>
<th>Struggles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lennie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>George</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Curley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crooks</td>
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</table>

Use this space to prove you read the chapter 3 thoroughly. Be *detailed* enough so there is no question you read it thoroughly; be *organized* enough so your answer fits in the space given.
Chapter 3 (37-66)

What does Slim do for Lennie?

We learn some details behind George and Lennie’s friendship. Why are they together?

Summarize the story that George tells about Lennie on page 40.

What had happened in Weed?

What does Carlson convince Candy to do?

In the short description of Whit, what might you guess about his personality?

What is the stable buck’s name? _________________

Why did Curley come into the bunkhouse?
How will Candy be involved in George’s and Lennie’s future plans? Be specific.

On page 61, what does Candy regret?

What happened between Curley and Lennie? Be specific.

What do the men say to convince Curley to be quiet? Why does what they say seem to make him agree?

What do you think will happen next?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Background/biography:</th>
<th>Problems or concerns:</th>
<th>This character is most likely to have a conflict about what and with whom?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curley’s wife</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Draw a sketch of the character here. Include images that explain or describe the character.

Swamper/ Candy

Background/ biography:

Problems or concerns:

This character is most likely to have a conflict about what and with whom?

Curley

Background/ biography:

Problems or concerns:

This character is most likely to have a conflict about what and with whom?

Boss/ Curley’s dad

Background/ biography:

Problems or concerns:

This character is most likely to have a conflict about what and with whom?
Chapter 2 (17-37)

Describe the bunk house. Write at least 5 physical details or share a sketch that shows at least 5 clear details.

What reason does George give to the boss to explain why he and Lennie travel together?

What does the Swamper say about Curley’s personality on page 26?

What is the plan George and Lennie make if Lennie ever gets in trouble?

What is the Swamper’s name? ________________

What is Lennie looking forward to at the end of this chapter?
Introduction of Characters: Chapter 2 (17-37) 1. Write the physical description of the character. 2. Share your first impressions? 3. Guess whether they are “good guys/(girl)” or “bad guys/(girl)” and explain why.

- **“Swamper”**
- **Boss’s Son Curley**
- **“Boss”**
- **Curley’s Wife**
- **Slim**
Chapter 1 (1-17)  
Name _________________________________

Pay careful attention to the setting on the first two pages.

Describe this place, including at least 5 specific examples:

Describe the two men physically:
Man 1:  
Man 2:  

What do you notice about the way they speak to each other in the first ten pages?

What background information do you learn about the two men?

Where are the men going, and what are they going to do?
Steinbeck gives information about the friendship between the two men. Describe what happens related to each of the following. Then, explain what that event reveals about their friendship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>What happened?</th>
<th>What it reveals about their friendship:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water, pages 2-3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouse, pages 5-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>What happened in Weed, page 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Their dream, pages 13-16</td>
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