



King Edward VII Academy

Teacher Booklet - annotated/model answers

English Literature 8702/2 Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry

Unit: Of Mice and Men Literature - skills base

JOHN STEINBECK'S

OF
MICE
AND
MEN



Lesson 01 – Comprehension -George and Lennie - ONE

1. What is the relationship between George and Lennie?
2. How do you know this?
3. What do they eat, and why do you think that's all they eat?
4. Do you think the friendship is equal?
5. Who does Lennie need to be careful in front of?
6. Why was Lennie happy?
7. Where does George tell Lennie to follow and why?
8. Where do they spend the night?
9. What does Lennie want to look after?
10. What made a noise in the distance?

Lesson 02 – Inference and Deduction (AO1)- TWO

1. What do you think the Boss means by this question?
2. Who is Lennie talking about? And why do you think he goes on to say he's a good worker?
3. Why do you think Steinbeck says deliberately?
4. What do you think he means 'sellin'?
5. Why do you think it was unusual for this type of friendship?
6. Why do you think he lied?
7. Why do you think he expanded his lie?
8. Why did Steinbeck use the adverb promptly?
9. What do you think he means by wise guys?
10. Why did George turn on Lennie?
11. How did Lennie behave and why?
12. What is George's tone with Lennie?
13. Why does Lennie finish the extract with this type of mean comment?

Lesson 03 – Character (AO2/1) Analysis -THREE

What do you think of the way **Candy speaks and behaves** here?

Lesson 04 – Mood/atmosphere (AO2/1) – FOUR (a)

What Mood and atmosphere is created through the way Crooks speaks and behaves here?

Lesson 05 – Character analysis (AO1/O3) – FIVE

What do you think of the way Lennie speaks and behaves here?

Lesson 06 – Evaluate (A01/O2/O3) - SIX

What thoughts and feelings do you have as you read this extract?

Lesson 07 – Compare Writers' Ideas (AO1/O3)

Compare how ideas about 'best laid plans' are presented in Steinbeck's book and Burns original poem

Lesson 04 – Mood/atmosphere (AO2/1) – FOUR (a)

(suggested Extended writing task) What Mood and atmosphere is created through the way Crooks speaks and behaves here? Give reasons for what you say, and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract.

Crooks said, "I didn't mean to scare you. He'll come back. I was talkin' about myself. A guy sets alone out here at night, maybe readin' books or thinkin' or stuff like that. Sometimes he gets thinkin', an' he got nothing to tell him what's so an' what ain't so. Maybe if he sees somethin', he don't know whether it's right or not. He can't turn to some other guy and ast him if he sees it too. He can't tell. He got nothing to measure by. I seen things out here. I wasn't drunk. I don't know if I was asleep. If some guy was with me, he could tell me I was asleep, an' then it would be all right. But I jus' don't know." Crooks was looking across the room now, looking toward the window.

Lennie said miserably, "George wun't go away and leave me. I know George wun't do that."

The stable buck went on dreamily, "I remember when I was a little kid on my old man's chicken ranch. Had two brothers. They was always near me, always there. Used to sleep right in the same room, right in the same bed—all three. Had a strawberry patch. Had an alfalfa patch. Used to turn the chickens out in the alfalfa on a sunny morning. My brothers'd set on a fence rail an' watch 'em—white chickens they was."

Gradually Lennie's interest came around to what was being said. "George says we're gonna have alfalfa for the rabbits."

"What rabbits?"

"We're gonna have rabbits an' a berry patch."

"You're nuts."

"We are too. You ast George."

"You're nuts." Crooks was scornful. "I seen hunderds of men come by on the road an' on the ranches, with their bindles on their back an' that same damn thing in their heads. Hunderds of them. They come, an' they quit an' go on; an' every damn one of 'em's got a little piece of land in his head. An' never a God damn one of 'em ever gets it. Just like heaven. Ever'body wants a little piece of lan'. I read plenty of books out here. Nobody never gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land. It's just in their head. They're all the time talkin' about it, but it's jus' in their head."

Heaven is a person perfection = nobody achieves it, nobody gets their heaven. It's a waste of time. This is how he feels about his situation. It's pointless to dream or want more. The world isn't like that

Crooks suggests its pointless to dream and hope it will never happen - Crooks, who's experienced so much suffering, sees all dreams as shams.

Extract ends with the same depressing mood that it began, a sense of doom, helplessness, routine, powerless, weak, acceptance of fate, a life they cannot escape. The atmosphere is one of hearbroken, broken dreams, lack of hope, tired and weary.

Commented [FR1]: Extract is sad and depressing, Crooks has given up on life. He's an empty shell. A reader would feel empathy for the characters. Its full of melancholy emotions.

Focus on alone – this is how crooks is, he is disadvantaged because of age, disability and colour

Commented [FR2]: Shows he's intelligent but not necessarily out of choice, just boredom

Commented [FR3]: Loneliness is highlight in crooks = he has nobody and feels he goes mad. Crooks says he was just trying to make Lennie understand what it's like to be black and, therefore, alone. "A guy needs somebody," Crooks says.

Commented [FR4]: Dreams of a better time, the window keeps him confined from freedom – nostalgic atmosphere better times, good old days.

Commented [FR5]: Verb suggests how he feels about his life, nothing to look forward to. He remembers when he had people around him, who cared crooks dreams of companionship more than anything

Commented [FR6]: Puts Lennie down even though he is weak himself, all the characters are mean to those below them

Commented [FR7]: Scornful suggests mocking dismissive superior - Crooks makes himself feel strong by making Lennie feel weaker. Gives a bitter nasty mood and atmosphere

Commented [FR8]: Indicates how long he's been on farm – all have the same pointless dream. Hyperbole emphasises this.

Commented [FR9]: All they possess and nothing more

Commented [FR10]: All chasing the American dream The conversation turns back to the farm. Crooks says all ranch hands dream about owning land, but nobody ever does, just like nobody ever gets to heaven.

Commented [FR11]: Repetition to make his point

Lesson 08 – Creative writing (AO4) – Your own Story!

Based on the lessons so far, create your own version of SIX (an alternative ending). Focus on the skills learnt so far. Try to include the following in your creative description:

1. It must be **written Steinbeck's style**
2. You must use **sensory details** to describe the setting (sights, sounds, smells, thoughts, emotions, tastes, etc.).
3. Try to create a **mood** that is eerie, scary, overwhelming, or threatening to the reader.

Other TIPS: Colours, imagery (simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia), adjectives, adverbs and, emotive words.

SIX – Alternative ending

Lennie slumped toward the still river's cool edge and knelt. Dipping his large paw low in the dirty water, quivering and failing to bring any drops to his awaiting mouth. Quickly he turned, to the bushes and then to the opposite side, checking every few minutes or so for anyone approaching in the distance. Satisfied, he lay down like a child by the river's edge, with his legs drawn to his chest.

His head jerked up suddenly at the sound of a breaking branch and he slowly turned his head and inhaled sharply. When he saw George approaching, Lennie exhaled and crawled to his feet.

"George!" he exclaimed. Lennie tackled him in an enormous bear hug and they both fell to the ground as well as their bindles that George had been carrying. George looked at Lennie, but couldn't return Lennie's childish smile and instead gave him a sad one of his own. Lennie's face drooped and tears began forming in his eyes.

"George?"

Lennie looked at him. "Yeah?"

"I know what you's is gonna say, George." he said softly, his eyes sparkling. "I knows what you gonna say."

George shifted on the bed of brush. "What am I gonna say?"