

## Answer Key

### Study Guide

#### Chapters 1 and 2

- 1a. Lennie Small is mentally retarded. He is George's companion.
- 1b. George Milton is Lennie's companion and only friend.
- 1c. Curley is the boss's son and is married to the "tart."
- 1d. Slim is the jerkline skinner, boss of the grain team.
- 1e. Carlson is a fat man who wants to get rid of Candy's old dog.
- 1f. Candy is the old hired hand and owns the old dog.
- 1g. Crooks is the Black stable buck.
2. Lennie likes to pet and hold soft things.
- 3a. George met Lennie when Lennie's aunt died.
- 3b. George has mixed feelings about Lennie.
- 3c. Lennie is a nuisance because he is constantly in need of immediate supervision due to his tendency to get into trouble. On the other hand, George feels sorry for Lennie because he can't help what he does. George promised Lennie's aunt he'd look after Lennie.
4. George and Lennie's dream is to own their own land, farm it, and raise rabbits.
5. Lennie felt a woman's dress in Weed, and she said he had raped her.

#### Chapters 3 and 4

1. Candy doesn't want to kill his old dog because he has had it since it was a pup. Most students will say that this is understandable. Encourage them to express their own feelings about a similar situation. Candy later feels he was a coward for not shooting his dog himself. Perhaps he feels he should have been with him in his last moments.
2. Lennie was smiling, and Curley thought Lennie was laughing at him. Curley's main problem is jealousy and his need to be a big shot, and the fact that his wife is constantly making him look like a fool by flirting with the men on the ranch. Lennie didn't fight back at first because George had told him not to. Curley's hand was crushed by Lennie.
3. When Lennie first appeared at Crooks' door, Crooks didn't want him there. Crooks says people dislike him because he's Black—at least he can have the dignity and privacy of his own room. When Lennie tells Crooks about the dream, Crooks at first does not believe him. When Candy confirms it, Crooks wants to be part of it and acts more friendly.

#### Chapters 5 and 6

1. Evidence to show Lennie's mental retardation: he acts like a child of about 6; has trouble remembering; is attached to George the way a small child is to a parent; kills small, soft things. Other people immediately notice there is something "wrong."
- 2a. Most students will probably say that George's treatment of Lennie is not always fair.
- 2b. Most students will probably answer "yes." Discussion in class should definitely follow.
- 2c. Perhaps George could have taken Lennie to a doctor or mental health specialist who could have helped him or found a place for him to stay. At the time the book was written, however, mental hospitals still tended to be of the "madhouse" variety. In your class discussion, you might want to talk about what could be done for Lennie today in your community.
- 3a. Candy likes Lennie and shows his companionship because Lennie wants to share his dream with him.
- 3b. Curley's wife is afraid of Lennie; however, she wants to talk to him in the barn nonetheless. Her loneliness outweighs her fear.
- 3c. Crooks likes Lennie because Lennie genuinely wants to be friends; Lennie is unaware of racial differences and treats Crooks with kindness and respect. All of the characters are very lonely, and each has some flaw. Candy is old and has lost a hand, Crooks suffers racial slurs and is crippled, and Curley's wife is a tease.

4. Lennie hits the puppy to try to teach him not to bite. He doesn't realize his own strength—his blow kills the pup. When Curley's wife invites him to touch her soft hair, he doesn't want to let go. This frightens the girl, who begins screaming. Lennie, in trying to quiet her, breaks her neck. Both acts are completely unintentional.
5. This is student opinion, although most students will probably say that Lennie had to be shot because his punishment would have been too hard for him to bear. If the mob of men from the ranch had gotten to him before George shot him, he would have been frightened and confused. Even if they had shot him, it would have been a sharp contrast to the way George shot him, while Lennie was happily thinking of taking care of the rabbits. If he had been arrested for murder, he would have undoubtedly been locked up for life, not understanding what was happening to him, taken away from George and the dream.
6. Both deeds were done "for their own good."

### Vocabulary Quiz

- |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. h | 2. a | 3. e | 4. b | 5. f | 6. i | 7. d | 8. c | 9. j | 10. g |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
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- |                                  |                                      |   |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 11. dejected<br>dejectedly       | 12. complacent<br>complacent(ly)     | 13. ominous<br>ominously                | 14. amused<br>amusing<br>amuse                 | 15. intense<br>intensity<br>intensive<br>intensively |
| 16. duty<br>dutifully<br>dutiful | 17. craftily<br>craftiness<br>crafty | 18. defense<br>defensive<br>defensively | 19. contemptuously<br>contempt<br>contemptuous | 20. apology<br>apologize<br>apologetic               |

### Word Search Quiz

(Chapters 1-3)

- |              |            |          |            |
|--------------|------------|----------|------------|
| 1. Steinbeck | 2. Salinas | 3. Candy | 4. rabbits |
| 5. mice      | 6. George  | 7. cards | 8. Carlson |
| 9. Small     | 10. Lennie | 11. Weed | 12. memory |
| 13. Curley   | 14. Crooks | 15. men  | 16. Slim   |

### Additional Words

stein, now, son, down, no, paw, ice, spy, go, crook, dog, arab, bit, or, dawn, horse, show, curl, me, in, to, and, rob, on, is, so, do, pig, awe (29 total)

### Chapters 4-6 Quiz

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F  | 2. T  | 3. F  | 4. F  | 5. F  |
| 6. F  | 7. T  | 8. F  | 9. F  | 10. T |
| 11. 4 | 12. 3 | 13. 2 | 14. 5 | 15. 1 |
| 16. 6 | 17. d | 18. d | 19. d | 20. b |

21. Lennie told Crooks about the farm dream. At first, Crooks told him he was crazy. Then he wanted to join them.
22. He was sure the "tart" would cause trouble.
23. that George would no longer want to buy the farm
24. Both are unwanted by anyone except their best (and only) friends. They are both hard workers, loyal, and basically harmless. Both had to die "for their own good."
25. To prevent Lennie's being killed by the mob, George started telling him about the dream and quickly shot him in the head so he would never know what happened.