



PLOT		CHARACTERS		KEY QUOTES	
1	We meet George and Lennie in an idyllic, natural setting. They discuss their dream of freedom & self-sufficiency.	George	frustrated, devoted, a dreamer	George	C1. "Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don't belong no place. . . "
2	They arrive at the ranch and the claustrophobic bunkhouse, where we are introduced to Candy, the boss, Curley, Curley's Wife, Slim and Carlson.	Lennie	childlike, unassuming, physically powerful	Lennie	C1 "Slowly, like a terrier who doesn't want to bring a ball to its master, Lennie approached, drew back, approached again.
3	Candy's dog is shot by Carlson. Candy is able to finance the dream. Curley attacks Lennie.	Candy	unloved, an outcast, aging		
4	Set in Crooks' ramshackle shed. Lennie and Curley's Wife pay Crooks a visit.	Curley	insecure, unmerciful, jealous	Slim	C2 "Aint many guys travel around together, he mused. I don't know why. Maybe ever'body in the whole damn world is scared of each other."
5	In the barn. Curley's Wife is killed by Lennie and Lennie escapes.	Curley's wife	a seductive temptress, objectified, lonely, nameless		
6	Back 'down by the river'. George shoots Lennie. The dream is dead.	Crooks	cynical, proud, isolated	Candy	C3. "I ought to of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't of ought to let no stranger shoot my dog"
SYMBOLS		Slim	compassionate, wise, respected		
		Carlson	heartless, insensitive		
George and Lennie's Farm		THEMES AND CONTEXT		George	C3. "We wouldn't ask nobody if we could. Jus' say, 'We'll go to her,' an' we would "
				Crooks	C4. "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."
Rabbits		Steinbeck encourages us to empathise with the plight of migrant workers during the Great Depression .		The American Dream is shown to be impossible: reality defeats idealism .	
Candy's dog		The novella explores the human need for companionship and the tragedy of loneliness .		Curley's wife	C5. And the meanness and the plannings and the discontent and the ache for attention were all gone from her face. She was very pretty and simple, and her face was sweet and young.
				Part 6	C6. "A silent head and beak lanced down and plucked it out by the head, and the beak swallowed the little snake while its tail waved frantically."
Lennie's puppy		Steinbeck reveals the predatory nature of mankind : the powerless are targeted by the powerful .		George	C6. "No, Lennie. I ain't mad. I never been mad, an' I aint now. That's a thing I want ya to know
				Steinbeck explores the tension between the inevitability of fate and the fragility of human dreams .	
Lennie's puppy		Steinbeck explores the tension between the inevitability of fate and the fragility of human dreams .		The novella is an indictment of the way society treats the dispossessed .	