

Reading Guide: Chapter III

I. Figurative Language and Stylistic Devices (4M/7A) - Read the following excerpts from the novel and determine what figure of speech or stylistic device is being used.

- George looked over at Slim and saw the calm, God - like eyes fastened on him.

- “So he reaches out to feel this red dress an’ the girl lets out a squawk...” _____
- “I can tell a mean guy a mile off.” _____
- He walked heavily on his heels, as though he carried the invisible grain bag.

- Curley was flopping like a fish. _____
- Carlson’s footsteps died away. _____
- It [silence] came out of the night and invaded the room. _____

II. Vocabulary -Read the sentences below and write the definition of each underlined word. Use a dictionary to check yourself.

- Now and then the sound of voices raised in approval or derision.
- Slim neither encouraged nor discouraged him. He just sat back quiet and receptive.
- George put down his cards very deliberately.
- Lennie held out his hands pleadingly. “Give ‘em to me, George!”

III. Characterization

Read the quotations below. Determine who is being described and if it is direct or indirect characterization.

- “He’ll want to sleep right out in the barn with them. We’ll have trouble keeping him from getting right in the box with them pups.” _____
- [He] looked a long time at Slim to try to find some reversal. And Slim gave none.

- The door opened and [he] put in his head: a lean negro head, lined with pain, the eyes patient. _____
- “I don’t care if you’re the best welter in the country. You come for me an’ I’ll kick your [damn] head in!” _____

IV. Plot Details

1. Why did Lennie and George have to leave Weed?
2. To whom does George tell this story?
3. What happens to Candy's dog?
4. Who wants to go in with George and Lennie on their dream ranch?
5. What does Candy think he should have done about his dog?
6. Why does Curley attack Lennie in the bunk?
7. What does Lennie do to Curley?
8. What story does Slim make up in order to protect Lennie?