

Of Mice and Men - Super Quick Quiz

You only have a short time to do this quiz, so don't spend time pondering over the answers; get them down as quickly as you can. By the time you have marked your sheet, you will probably have doubled (or even tripled!) your knowledge. That's a result!

Opening section of the book

1. How is the scene set? Please tick.
 - a) Idyllic portrayal of nature
 - b) Creepy and solitary
 - c) An urban setting

2. Think about how the arrival of the men affects the animals and general atmosphere. Does it mostly suggest:
 - a) Mankind's ability to interact with a natural setting
 - b) An invasion of nature; disturbance
 - c) Tension

3. What was the name of the last town they were in? _____

4. What happened to make them leave town in a hurry?
 - a) Lennie got into a fight
 - b) George lost his temper with the boss
 - c) Lennie grabbed hold of a girl's dress and wouldn't let go

5. Why do you think the author likens Lennie to a bear and a horse?
 - a) Because he obeys commands and is trained well
 - b) To create the idea that he is no more intelligent than animals
 - c) To create an image of his size and strength

6. What would you say is the main and immediate difference between George Milton and Lennie Small? Answer in a complete sentence. _____

7. What word would you use to describe the author's purpose in naming Lennie, "Lennie Small"? _____

8. What was the name of the agency that found them new work in a different area? _____

9. What does Lennie think he has lost? _____

10. What phrase does George often use to describe Lennie when he is exasperated with him? _____

11. What do George and Lennie argue about? _____

12. Why does George say to himself, "Poor bastard"? Answer in a complete sentence to explain yourself.

13. What is it that George does not have but Lennie wants?

14. How would you describe Lennie's attitude about the beans and the missing condiment?

15. The men have ambitions for the future; this is known as:

16. What is their main ambition for the future?

17. What do you think George's reason is for not continuing their journey to the ranch that evening? _____

Pen Portrait Of George Milton

Appearance -

George is not a big guy; he is small built, wiry, but muscular enough from working hard all his life doing physical jobs. He has bright, intelligent eyes and thinnish features, a "bony nose".

He is a fit man from working on ranches and his movements are quick and sure. He gives the impression of being full of nervous energy.

Intelligence -

George is an under educated man but he isn't stupid by any stretch of the imagination. He can work things out for himself and has had to live on his wits for years. Despite his accent, he is articulate and can speak up for himself. He has managed to look after Lennie despite all the scrapes he keeps getting them into (think about how they had to run from Weed). George can plan ahead and work things out for himself.

He has the "smarts" to care for Lennie, who can be a big problem with all his disabilities - poor memory, low intelligence and inability to look out for himself. George understands that Lennie needs somebody to look after him and he takes on the role of parent, partly out of guilt and partly because he promised Lennie's aunt he would on her deathbed.

Future Prospects -

If Lennie wasn't hanging round George's neck like a "millstone", George would have reasonable prospects as he is hard working, reliable and fairly intelligent. However, even with Lennie in tow, he hopes that he can save up enough money for them to set up their own little farm. There is some possibility of this - two wages being saved is obviously better than one. George is trying his best not to blow all his money on whisky and women! He badly wants a place of his own and thinks he can get it, if he is just determined enough. This is their "dream" to have their own place and not be bossed around by an unfair boss.

Homework task: to be handed in on _____

Write a pen portrait of Lennie, using George's as a template. Include as much detail as you can and really think it through. Plan first.