**“Of Mice and Men” Reading Focus: Pages 1-16**

Vocabulary in Context Procedures:

* 1. find each listed word,
  2. read the sentences (context) around the word, then try to figure out what the word means,
  3. check their definitions with the dictionary (if necessary), and
  4. jot down their “working definition” in their own words, and
  5. also write down why this word is important to the selection.

Word (page #) sentence working definition actual meaning

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| mottled (1)  unslung (3)  morosely (4)  bindle (8)  lumbered (8) |  |  |  |

**Focus for reading:**

1. Choose a character from the following list. You will read the book from this character’s perspective:

George Lennie Slim Curley Candy Crooks

Curley’s Wife Carlson

2. Use the four essential questions to analyze George and Lennie’s relationship (check the four questions on the front page of the study guide and use the relationship between George and Lennie to answer them).

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| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |
| 4. |

3. Pick out two “showing” sentences from the section. Copy them, and their page number, in the boxes below.

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| 1. |
| 2. |

**“Of Mice and Men” Reading Focus: Pages 17-37**

Word (page #) sentence working definition actual meaning

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| calculating (25)  pugnacious (25)  swamper (26)  tart (28)  buck (28)  barley (28)  jerkline skinner (33) |  |  |  |

**Focus for reading:**

1. Describe the events in this chapter from your character’s perspective. If you wish, you may even use your character’s specific voice and tone.

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2. Pick out two “showing” sentences from the section. Copy them, and their page number, in the boxes below.

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| 1. |
| 2. |

3. In your literature circles, discuss each of the following relationships in light of the four essential questions for the unit.

Candy and his dog Curley and Lennie Curley and George Lennie and Curley’s wife

**“Of Mice and Men” Reading Focus: Pages 38-65**

Word (page #) sentence working definition actual meaning

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| derision (38)  “my fifty and found”  rheumatism (44)  whing-ding (46)  Luger (47)  raptly (58)  welter (62)  wryly (64) |  |  |  |

**1. Describe the events in this chapter from your character’s perspective. If you wish, you may even use your character’s specific voice and tone.**

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**2. Explain what is revealed about George and Lennie's relationship?**

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* **Which main character does Candy's dog best symbolize? Explain.**

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**4. Write whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Then, discuss them as they relate to the novel thus far.**

Agree Disagree

1. A true friend will tell you the truth, even when you don't want to hear it. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Carlson shooting Candy's dog was the humane thing to do. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Candy should have been the one to shoot his own dog. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Lennie was right to crush Curley's hand, regardless of the possible consequences. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Slim and Curley's wife have had/ are having a relationship. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
4. George, Lennie, and Candy will get a “stake” and be able to live their American Dream. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Identify two possible pieces of FORESHADOWING and theorize what the event might foreshadow.**

Event (Possible foreshadowing) Theory (what the event might foreshadow)

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**Write a paragraph to REACT to this particular chapter (include reactions and opinions to events).**

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**“Of Mice and Men” Reading Focus: Pages 66-83**

Word (page #) sentence working definition actual meaning

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| aloof (67)  meager (67)  disarming (69)  bored in on him (72)  averted (81)  subsided (81) |  |  |  |

**1. Describe the events in this chapter from your character’s perspective. If you wish, you may even use your character’s specific voice and tone.**

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**2. Analyze the character “Crooks.” (What troubles does he have?)**

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* **Why, in your opinion, does Crooks choose to bully Lenny?**

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**4. Write whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Then, discuss them as they relate to the novel thus far.**

Agree Disagree

1. People who undergo pain should be punished all the same when they hurt others. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Crooks should choose to move with George, Lennie and Candy. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Crooks can achieve the “American Dream.” \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Crooks would still be found guilty if he was falsely accused by Curley’s Wife. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Crooks has a right to mistreat those around him. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Write THREE original, deeper-level discussion questions to bring up at your next literature circle discussion:**

1.

2.

3.

**6. Write a paragraph to REACT to this particular chapter (include reactions and opinions to events).**

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**“Of Mice and Men” Reading Focus: Pages 84-98**

Word (page #) sentence working definition actual meaning

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| confided (89/97)  complacently (91/99)  contorted (91/99)  writhed (91/99)  lynched (94/103) |  |  |  |

**1. Describe the events in this chapter from your character’s perspective. If you wish, you may even use your character’s specific voice and tone.**

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**2. Analyze the character “Curley’s Wife.” In her mind, can she achieve the American Dream? What factors led to her choices?**

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**3. Write whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Then, discuss them as they relate to the novel thus far.**

Agree Disagree

* Accidentally killing someone should warrant the same penalty as planned murder. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Curley's wife was able to achieve the American Dream. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Steinbeck's wrote his novella to reflect the hopelessness of pursuing an unreachable dream. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Before he ran away from the ranch, Lennie took Carlson's Luger. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Deep down, Curley’s wife loves her husband. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Curley has a right to kill Lennie, because Lennie killed his wife. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

**Read the following passage from the novella: (94-95/103-104)**

*George said softly, “- I think I knowed from the very first. I think I knowed we'd never do her. He usta like to hear about it so much I got to thinking maybe we would.”*

*“Then—it's all off?” Candy asked sulkily.*

*George didn't answer his question. George said, “I'll work my month an I'll take my fifty bucks an' I'll stay all night in some lousy cat house. Or I'll set in some poolroom till ever'body goes home. An' then I'll come back an' work another month an' I'll have fifty bucks more.”*

Write a brief **literary analysis** which focuses on the theme of attaining the “American Dream.”

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