

Name _____ **Of Mice and Men**

***Of Mice and Men* Chapter 3 Reading Activity**

Chapter 3 - *Dreams Shared and Tensions Rise*



At the ranch bunkhouse, George talks with Slim, the respected mule driver, about his and Lennie's past. George confides that he used to tease Lennie but now feels protective of him. Slim praises George for caring about Lennie, unlike most men who travel alone. The dream of owning a farm becomes more real when Candy, the aging ranch hand, overhears George and Lennie and offers his life savings to join them. For the first time, their dream feels within reach.

Meanwhile, Carlson pressures Candy to let him put down his old, suffering dog. Reluctantly, Candy agrees, and Carlson shoots the dog outside. The other men remain silent, showing the harsh reality of life on the ranch: the old and weak are cast aside. Later, tensions flare when Curley picks a fight with Lennie. Lennie tries to avoid conflict until George urges him to fight back. Lennie crushes Curley's hand with his strength, shocking everyone. Curley is humiliated, and Slim insists he cover up the incident to save his pride.

Questions (Answer in complete sentences)

1. How does George's conversation with Slim highlight the uniqueness of George and Lennie's friendship?
2. What does Candy's eagerness to join the dream farm reveal about his fears for the future?
3. What does the shooting of Candy's dog symbolize in this chapter?
4. How does Lennie's fight with Curley change the way the other men view him?
5. What theme about strength and weakness is developed through both Candy's dog and Lennie's confrontation with Curley?