

Name _____ **Of Mice and Men**



***Of Mice and Men* Chapter 5 Reading Activity**

Chapter 5 - *The Barn and the Breaking Point*

In the barn, Lennie sits alone with his puppy, which he has accidentally killed by handling it too roughly. Upset, he worries that George will be angry and might not let him tend the rabbits on their dream farm. While Lennie is distressed, Curley's wife enters. She begins talking with Lennie, confessing her unhappiness. She explains she once dreamed of becoming a movie star but ended up trapped in a loveless marriage with Curley. Her loneliness and frustration spill out as she admits she has "nobody" to talk to.

As they talk, Curley's wife allows Lennie to touch her soft hair. At first, she enjoys the attention, but when Lennie grabs too tightly, she panics. Terrified of getting in trouble with George, Lennie shakes her to quiet her. In his panic and confusion, he accidentally breaks her neck. Horrified, Lennie flees to the riverbank, the place George told him to hide if trouble ever came. When Candy and George discover her body, they realize their dream farm is now impossible. Curley is furious and vows revenge, raising a mob to hunt Lennie down.

Questions (Answer in complete sentences)

1. What does Curley's wife's confession about her past dreams reveal about her character?
2. Why is Lennie so upset about the dead puppy, and what does this show about his childlike mindset?
3. How does Curley's wife's death symbolize the destruction of George and Lennie's dream?
4. What does this chapter suggest about the fragility of dreams in a harsh world?
5. Why does Curley respond to his wife's death with anger rather than grief? What does this reveal about him?