

Name _____

A Cast of Characters in 'Of Mice and Men'

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Dreams and aspirations are central to "Of Mice and Men." George and Lennie's dream of owning land represents hope and stability in their challenging lives. Candy dreams of joining them in their venture. Curley's wife dreams of a more glamorous life. These dreams shape their actions, providing a sense of purpose and motivation. However, the novella also explores the fragility of dreams in a harsh reality, highlighting the challenges of achieving one's aspirations.
2. Curley's wife is a complex character who embodies the theme of loneliness and unfulfilled dreams. Her marriage to Curley leaves her isolated, and her desire for attention and companionship leads her to seek interactions with the ranch workers. Her presence creates tension on the ranch and ultimately leads to tragedy.
3. Companionship and isolation are recurring themes in the story. George and Lennie's friendship provides them with a sense of belonging, but they are also isolated from others due to Lennie's condition. Crooks faces isolation and discrimination due to his race, while Candy's relationship with his dog represents companionship and the pain of loss.
4. Slim is a wise and respected character in the story. He serves as a voice of reason and guidance for the other ranch workers, particularly George and Lennie. His calm demeanor and understanding influence the dynamics on the ranch and contribute to the themes of friendship and camaraderie.

