

Name _____

Exploring the Character of George in 'Of Mice and Men'

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. George's character in "Of Mice and Men" is defined by his responsibilities and sacrifices, particularly in his relationship with Lennie. His loyalty and dedication to Lennie shape the narrative by providing emotional depth and driving the themes of friendship, dreams, and responsibility. His sacrifices, including the difficult decision at the climax of the novella, highlight the complexities of his character and the moral dilemmas he faces.
2. The dream of owning land symbolizes hope and a better life for George and Lennie. It motivates their actions and decisions throughout the story. In the context of the Great Depression, their dream represents the aspirations and desires of individuals seeking stability and independence in a challenging time.
3. George faces moral dilemmas in the novella, particularly in the climax. His decision to end Lennie's life is a difficult one, driven by a desire to protect his friend from a more brutal fate. This decision raises questions about the responsibilities we have toward others and the difficult choices we sometimes must make in the face of adversity.
4. George's character is instrumental in the emotional impact of the novella. His relationship with Lennie forms the heart of the story, providing moments of warmth and tragedy. The bond between the two characters resonates with readers, evoking empathy and reflection on the complexities of friendship and sacrifice.

