

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Journey of George and Lennie in 'Of Mice and Men'

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. George and Lennie's relationship is characterized by mutual dependence. George looks after Lennie, who has a childlike mind and lacks the ability to care for himself. In return, Lennie provides companionship and a sense of purpose for George. However, their friendship also faces challenges, such as Lennie's unintentional destructive tendencies and George's frustration at times.
2. Dreams play a central role in the novella, driving the characters' actions and motivations. George and Lennie's dream represents the American Dream of independence and success. In contrast, other characters, like Candy and Crooks, have dreams of finding a sense of belonging and stability. These dreams ultimately collide with the harsh reality of their lives during the Great Depression.
3. The ranch setting in "Of Mice and Men" symbolizes the challenges and aspirations of the characters. It reflects the isolation and lack of permanence in their lives as itinerant workers. Additionally, the ranch embodies the struggle for stability and the pursuit of dreams, making it a microcosm of the wider world during that era.
4. George's decision at the end of the novella is a morally complex one. He chooses to shoot Lennie to spare him from a more brutal fate at the hands of others. This decision is emotionally painful for George, as he loses his friend and the dream they shared. It highlights the harsh realities of the time and the sacrifices people made to survive in a challenging world.

