Name _____

## Exploring Literary Devices in 'Of Mice and Men'

Literary devices are like tools that authors use to make their stories more engaging and meaningful. In John Steinbeck's novella, "Of Mice and Men," various literary devices are at play to enhance the storytelling experience. Let's discover some of these literary devices and how they contribute to the narrative.

**Literary Devices in 'Of Mice and Men'**

- **Simile:** A simile is a figure of speech that compares two unlike things using "like" or "as." For example, when Steinbeck writes, "Lennie dabbed his big paw in the water," he's comparing Lennie's hand to a paw, highlighting its size and clumsiness.
- **Foreshadowing:** Foreshadowing is a literary device that hints at future events in the story. In the novella, the dead puppy foreshadows a tragic event later in the plot.
- **Symbolism:** Symbolism is when something represents or stands for something else. The dream of owning land that George and Lennie share symbolizes hope, freedom, and their desire for a better life.
- **Imagery:** Imagery uses vivid descriptions to create mental pictures for readers. Steinbeck's detailed descriptions of the Salinas Valley and the ranch help readers imagine the settings.
- **Metaphor:** A metaphor is a figure of speech that directly compares two unrelated things, suggesting that they are the same. When George says, "Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world," he's using a metaphor to equate ranch workers with extreme loneliness.
- **Irony:** Irony is when the opposite of what you expect to happen occurs. An example of irony in the novella is when Candy's excitement about the dream farm contrasts with the tragic outcome of the story.
- **Dialogue:** Dialogue is the conversation between characters. In "Of Mice and Men," it serves to reveal characters' personalities and relationships, such as the banter between George and Lennie.
- **Allusion:** An allusion is a reference to another work of literature, history, or culture. Steinbeck alludes to the poem "To a Mouse" by Robert Burns when he chooses the title "Of Mice and Men," which comes from the poem's line, "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry."

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