

Name _____

Exploring Literary Devices in 'Of Mice and Men'

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Dialogue in "Of Mice and Men" serves as a window into the personalities and relationships of the characters. For example, the banter between George and Lennie shows their close friendship, while Curley's aggressive speech reflects his insecurity and hostility. Additionally, the way characters speak about the dream of owning land reveals their desires and hopes.
2. The allusion to Robert Burns' poem "To a Mouse" in the title of the novella, "Of Mice and Men," underscores the idea that even the best-laid plans can go awry. It relates to the story's themes of dreams and the unpredictable nature of life. Like the mouse in the poem, characters in the novella face unexpected challenges that disrupt their plans.
3. Symbolism plays a significant role in the novella, particularly regarding the dream of owning land. This symbol represents hope and a better life for George and Lennie, motivating their actions and providing a sense of purpose. It also highlights the theme of the American Dream and the desire for stability and independence in a challenging world.
4. Another example of foreshadowing in "Of Mice and Men" is the mention of the snake that Lennie kept in his pocket. This foreshadows Lennie's accidental killing of Curley's wife later in the story. The snake, like Lennie, is innocent but poses a danger due to its strength. This device adds tension and anticipation to the narrative and contributes to the tragic outcome.

