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The Beginning of the Journey: Scene 1 of 'Of Mice and Men'



In John Steinbeck's classic novella, "Of Mice and Men," the story begins with Scene 1, setting the stage for the adventures of two friends, George and Lennie. Let's delve into what happens in this opening scene and explore the key elements of their journey.

Scene 1: A Riverside Camp

The novella opens by the Salinas River in California, where George and Lennie are camping for the night. The two men are on their way to a new job at a nearby ranch. George, a small, sharp-witted man, takes care of Lennie, who is physically strong but has a childlike mind. They have a dream of owning a piece of land together, a place where they can live in peace and be their own bosses.

As they sit by the campfire, George scolds Lennie for an incident that occurred in their previous job in Weed. Lennie, with his immense strength, accidentally frightened a woman by touching her soft dress, which led to trouble. George reminds Lennie of their dream and emphasizes the importance of avoiding any trouble at the new ranch.

While George and Lennie talk, it becomes clear that they are bound by a deep friendship and a shared dream of a better life. Lennie is excited about the rabbits they will have on their future farm, and George reassures him that they will achieve their dream together.