

Name _____

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

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Dreams are a central theme in "Of Mice and Men." George and Lennie's dream of land ownership provides them with hope, purpose, and a vision for a better future. This dream motivates their actions throughout the novella, driving them to work hard and make sacrifices to achieve it.
2. Lennie is portrayed as physically strong but mentally challenged. His childlike qualities include his fascination with soft things and his inability to fully understand social norms. These qualities create both endearment and challenges for him and the people around him.
3. Friendship is a significant theme in the novella, highlighted by the deep bond between George and Lennie. In Scene 1, their friendship is evident in George's care for Lennie and their shared dreams. Their friendship serves as a source of emotional support in a harsh world.
4. The setting of the Salinas River in Scene 1 provides a tranquil and peaceful backdrop for George and Lennie's conversation. It foreshadows their desire for a peaceful life on their own land. However, the setting also hints at the challenges they will face on their journey, as the peaceful river can quickly become turbulent, much like their lives.

