

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Trouble on the Ranch: Scene 2 of 'Of Mice and Men'

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Curley serves as an antagonist in the story, constantly seeking confrontation and trying to assert his dominance over others. His aggressive nature creates tension and conflict on the ranch, contributing to the overall atmosphere of unease.
2. Candy's lost hand is a physical reminder of the harsh and unforgiving nature of ranch work. His openness and willingness to engage with George and Lennie suggest a longing for companionship and a desire to connect with others in an isolated environment.
3. Isolation and companionship are central themes in "Of Mice and Men." Characters like Candy, who have experienced loneliness, seek companionship and connection. Others, like Curley, use aggression as a defense mechanism to protect themselves from isolation.
4. The introduction of the bunkhouse setting in Scene 2 provides insight into the living conditions of the ranch workers. It is a simple, cramped space, emphasizing the lack of comfort and privacy in their lives. The bunkhouse setting sets the tone for the difficult and unforgiving environment the characters must endure.

