

Name _____

Exploring 'Of Mice and Men': Themes, Characters, and Purpose

Short Answer Key

1. George is Lennie's caregiver and protector, ensuring his safety. Their friendship represents loyalty and mutual support, and their dream of owning land together reflects their shared hopes and aspirations.
2. Dreams and aspirations are central to the characters' lives in "Of Mice and Men." George and Lennie's dream of owning land represents hope and a desire for independence. Each character's dreams reveal their motivations and provide a sense of purpose.
3. Curley's aggressive nature contributes to tension on the ranch, as he often tries to assert his authority over others. His confrontational attitude reflects his insecurity and jealousy, particularly in relation to his wife.
4. Loneliness is a recurring theme in the story. Curley's wife experiences isolation due to her unhappy marriage. Crooks, the only African American worker on the ranch, faces racial discrimination and isolation. These characters seek companionship and connection but often struggle to find it.
5. The setting during the Great Depression shapes the characters' experiences and struggles by highlighting the economic hardships and instability of the time. It provides context for their itinerant lifestyle and emphasizes the challenges they face.

