***Of Mice and Men* Unit Test Study Guide**

**Author: John Steinbeck**

**Setting: 1930’s/ Great Depression**

**Place: Soledad, California, Salinas Ranch**

**The title of the Novel came from a Poem**

**I.Quotes**—Be able to identify speakers of quotations. Know each character’s voice.

**Lennie George Curley’s Wife Crooks Candy**

1. **Curley’s wife** “Well, I ain’t giving you no trouble. Think I don’t like to talk to somebody ever once in a while? Think I like to stick in that alla time?”
2. **Candy** ” I been here a long time. An’ Crooks been here a long time. This is the first time I ever been in this room.”
3. **George ”** I ain’t mad. I never been mad, an’ I ain’t now. That’s the thing I want ya to know”
4. **Crooks** “ Books ain’t no good. A guy needs somebody- to be near him.”

5. **Lennie”** I done a real bad thing. I shouldn’t of did that. George ‘ll be mad.”

**II. Literary Devices—**Be able to define and identify each of the following terms in connection with *OMM*.

**Protagonist**

\_\_\_\_\_**George and Lennie\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Antagonist**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Curley\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Imagery**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_description of scenes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Theme:**

**Friendship**

**Discrimination**

**American Dream**

**Loneliness**

**Foreshadowing** – (hints or clues in a narrative to suggest what actions are to come)

**George tells Lennie to hide in the brush**

**Lennie gets them in trouble in Weed**

**George warns Lennie to stay away from Curley and Curley’s**

**Symbolism**

**Candy’s dog vs. Candy – old, useless**

**Solitaire - loneliness**

**III. Characterization**—Be able to identify and describe each of the following characters.

**Lennie George Curley Curley’s wife Slim Candy Crooks Carlson The Boss Aunt Clara Whit**

**Crooks** A proud and bitter man who reads a lot.

**Lennie**  Large man with round a shapeless eyes.

**Aunt Clara** Raised Lennie, used to give him mice and velvet.

**Candy** Old Swamper, only has one hand.

**Slim** Prince of the ranch, well liked and respected.

**Curley** Aggressive, boastful, and cocky, volatile temper.

**Curley’s Wife**\_ Known as a tart by the men on the ranch.

**George**  A small defined man with restless eyes.

**V. Plot – Be familiar with the answers to the following questions regarding the story.**

**Why do Lennie and George argue at the beginning of the novel?**

Lennie getting in trouble in Weed and they need to leave their job and find more work.

**What is George and Lennie’s Dream? What saying relates to that dream?**

To own their own farm. “live off the fatta the lan”?”

**Which characters face discrimination in the story?**

**Candy – Age**

**Curley’s Wife- gender**

**Crooks- race**

**VI. Figurative Language:**

**Personification** – (Human attributes to something non-human)

“leaves whispering in a little night breeze”

**Simile** – (Comparison using “like” or “as” in which two unlike things are compared)

“Rabbits sat as quiet as little gray sculptured stones”

**VII. Thematic Analysis—Dreams**

A theme is the lesson the reader learns through reading the story. It is NOT merely a general concept or idea, such as love, justice, or sorrow. One way to help you think of themes is to complete the following sentence: “Steinbeck attempts to show readers that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” One of the major recurring idea in *Of Mice and Men* is the elusiveness of dreams; several characters’ hopes have been dashed by the end of Section 5.

Identify the dream of each of the following characters, and explain how that dream is destroyed. Explain what you can learn from this at the bottom of the page.

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| **George and Lennie** |
| Dream: own their own land/farm  How it dies: George kills Lennie |
| **Crooks** |
| Dream: To be a part of society/ own his own land  How it dies: Curley’s wife threatens to kill him |
| **Candy** |
| Dream: Getting off the ranch and owning property of his own  How it dies: the death of Lennie |
| **Curley’s Wife** |
| Dream: to be an actress  How it dies: marries Curley and lives on the ranch |