

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

# Linking plot and context

L.O.: To link context and quotes with meaningful analysis

# Starter: Who is the odd one out?

**Curley's wife**

**Crooks**

**Candy**

**George**

**Starter:** Rank these characters in order of power. Be prepared to justify your answer.

Curley

Slim

Crooks

George

Lennie

Curley's wife

Candy

'he give the stable buck hell...ya see the stable bucks a nigger' (Candy)

What context can you link to each of these quotes?

"George raised the gun...Lennie giggled with happiness. 'An' live on the fatta the lan'" (Lennie)

"seen her give Slim the eye. Curley never seen it" (Whit)

'You got your work slips?' (The Boss)

'I seen wise guys before' (The Boss)

"We'd jus' live there. We'd belong there." (George)

"been around these big ranches" (Whit)

"You know where's a place like that...S'pose I do" (George)

"An' I could tend the rabbits" (Lennie)

"gonna put me in the movies. Says I was a natural" (Curley's wife)

"This is just a nigger talkin'... so it don't mean nothin'" (Crooks)

# Key contextual information: What do you remember?

- Wall Street Crash – The Great Depression
- Unemployment, emigration, ranch workers
- The dustbowl
- The American Dream
- Discrimination: Black people, women, disabled people, the elderly
- Steinbeck's own experience
- The title
- Political point through cyclical structure

# What is required to achieve full marks in the essay question?

## **AO1:**

Candidates: make increasingly **assured selection and incorporation of relevant detail**; are able **to speculate/offer tentative judgements; evaluate characters/relationships and attitudes/motives**; at the highest level, consistently **handle texts with confidence**, have an overview and ability to **move from the specific to the general**; convey ideas persuasively and cogently with **apt textual support**

## **AO4:**

Candidates: show a **clear understanding of social/cultural and historical contexts; relate texts to own and others' experience**; identify and comment on **importance of social/cultural and historical contexts**. Awareness of **literary tradition** shown; at the highest level, show a clear understanding of social/ cultural and historical contexts; relate details of text to literary background and explain **how texts have been/are influential at different times**.

# Let's unpick and memorise these:

1. Select relevant detail
2. Evaluate characters/relationships/themes
3. Appropriate quotes
4. Understanding of social/historical/political/cultural context
5. Relate to own and others' experience
6. How texts have been influential at different times

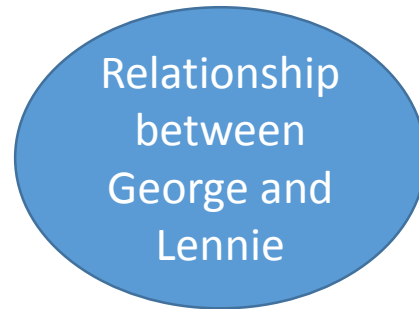
## Essay questions:

1. Steinbeck presents loneliness as an inescapable part of the characters' lives in *Of Mice and Men*. To what extent do you agree with this statement?
2. Explore the way *Of Mice and Men* deals with relationships between men. Consider the societal influences that shape those relationships, and discuss how the book would have been different if it was written today.
3. How does Steinbeck use the character of Curley's wife to highlight aspects of 1930s American society?
4. How does Steinbeck use the character of George to highlight aspects of 1930s American society?
5. How does Steinbeck use the character of Crooks to highlight aspects of 1930s American society?
6. What do the relationships in *Of Mice and Men* teach us about 1930s American society?
7. How is the theme of hope / hopelessness illustrated in the novella?
8. The title "Of Mice and Men" refers to how plans and dreams often go wrong. To what extent do you find it effective as a title for the novella?
9. "The world of "Of Mice and Men" is a world of harshness and violence." To what extent do you agree with this statement?



# Discuss the relationship between George and Lennie. You must refer to historical, cultural and social context in your answer.

1. Select relevant detail
2. Evaluate characters / relationships / themes
3. Appropriate quotes
4. Understanding of social / historical / political / cultural context
5. Relate to own and others' experience
6. How texts have been influential at different times



# How is the theme of hope / hopelessness illustrated in the novella?

1. Select relevant detail
2. Evaluate characters/relationships/themes
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4. Understanding of social/historical/political/cultural context
5. Relate to own and others' experience
6. How texts have been influential at different times

Of Mice and Men Context from the BBC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLAp7Ib4Ycg>