

**Year 9 English w/c 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
**'Of Mice & Men' Week 3: Chapter Two**

**Task 1: plot summary (Chapter Two)**

Read Chapter Two and complete the summary by filling in the blanks.

George and Lennie \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ where an old \_\_\_\_\_ shows them their \_\_\_\_\_. They meet the \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_ George about Lennie.

The swamper comes back with his \_\_\_\_\_. They meet the \_\_\_\_\_ son, whose name is \_\_\_\_\_. They also \_\_\_\_\_ a man called \_\_\_\_\_, whose dog has just had some \_\_\_\_\_. Curley's new \_\_\_\_\_ comes in, looking for her husband.

boss    rooms    beds    arrive    boss's    puppies    meet    Slim  
questions    girlfriend    Curley    dog    wife    swamper  
puppy    stable buck    fight    ranch

## **Task 2: vocabulary & glossary**

The words and definitions below have been jumbled up. Find these words in the chapter and read them in context then try to match the words with their correct meanings. Use a dictionary to check your answers (online dictionaries are available). Add to your own glossary of words and definitions that you began for Chapter One. Include these words and any other words you have found tricky in this chapter.

**complacent**

**The driver of a mule team**

**derogatory**

**Reins**

**brusque**

**Satisfied with oneself**

**jerkliness**

**To heave bags of barley around**

**pugnacious**

**Critical and demeaning**

**skinner**

**Abrupt and offhand**

**buck barley**

**Aggressive; quick to fight or quarrel**

### Task 3: character studies

#### **Candy**

Fill in this character study for Candy by choosing the best option from each row and then selecting at least 5 quotations from the chapter which tell us about Candy.

Appearance: Tall and dignified / Tall and strong / Tall and stooped

White moustache / White stubbly whiskers / Long black hair

Missing one hand / Limping / Almost blind

Job: Cooking and cleaning / Sweeping and cleaning / Driving the  
mule team

Personality: Lively / Bad-tempered / Talkative

Slow / Humorous / Aggressive

#### **Key quotations:**

## Curley

Fill in this character study for Curley by choosing the best option from each row and then selecting at least 5 quotations from the chapter which tell us about Curley.

Appearance: Small and thin / Short and stocky / Short and plump

Snub nose / Tightly curled hair / Bright blue eyes

Mules / High-heeled boots / Rigger boots

Job: We aren't told / Working in the stable / Working on the grain teams

Personality: Unassuming / Modest / Insecure

Popular / Profound / Bullying

### Key quotations:

## Curley's wife

Fill in this character study for Curley's wife by choosing the best option from each row and then selecting at least 5 quotations from the chapter which tell us about Curley's wife.

Appearance: Sophisticated / Cheap / Dowdy

Pretty / Beautiful / Handsome

Cotton dress and mules / Checked shirt and jeans / Cotton dress and apron

Job: Cooking for the men / Keeping house for Curley / Helping on the ranch

Personality: Shy / Devoted / Flirtatious

Clever / Kindly / Attention-seeking

### Key quotations:

## Slim

Fill in this character study for Slim by choosing the best option from each row and then selecting at least 5 quotations from the chapter which tell us about Slim.

Appearance: Long black hair / Large black eyes / Short black stubble

About thirty-five / Ageless / About fifty

Tall and big-bellied / Tall and well-built / Tall and lean

Job: Driving the mule team / Shearing the sheep / Tanning cowhides

Personality: Gentle / Feeble / Frightening

Domineering / Authoritative / Bullying

### Key quotations:

### **Task 4: characterisation**

Choose three characters from the second chapter of the novel. For each character identify three separate points from Steinbeck's description of their appearance and explain how these points contribute to the reader's understanding of that character.

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Task 5: the underdog symbol

Read the following statements about Candy's dog and decide for each if it is true or false.

Statement	T/F
The dog is Candy's loyal friend.	
The dog has become vicious with age.	
The dog is old and worn out and is no longer useful.	
The other men won't tolerate the dog because he is old and smelly.	
The dog was never any use.	
All the ranch workers love the old dog.	
One of the men wants to have him shot and 'replaced' with one of the new puppies.	

As you read through the novel, notice how many of the characters seem to be underdogs. A more sophisticated way of articulating is to say that they are marginalised by society. People are often marginalised because they are different from what is considered 'normal'. People who are marginalised are denied power and discriminated against. They are often insulted or excluded (pushed to the 'margins' of society) and are sometimes treated very brutally. The swamper's old dog is a metaphor for all the underdogs in the society depicted in the novel. (Used in this sense, 'metaphor' means a symbol.)

So far, which other characters do you think are underdogs? Give reasons for your answer!

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## Extension Task: additional questions

1. One of the first things we learn about Slim is that his dog has just had nine puppies, four of which he has drowned. Which pups does Slim drown, and why? What would we do with those pups today? Taking into account everything you know about Slim's character, what point do you think this incident makes about the society depicted in the novel?
2. Is Curley's wife really looking for her husband? If not, what is she doing in the bunk house?
3. Why does George tell Lennie to stay away from Curley's wife?
4. Curley's wife is never given a name of her own. Why do you think this is?
5. Paying particular attention to the exchanges between George and Candy, reread the passage from ' "Say, what the hell you doin' listenin'?" ' to 'He felt safe now, and he spoke more confidently.' Why do you think the old swamper feels so vulnerable?