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**Accelerated English** 10 – *Of Mice and Men*

Chapters 5 and 6

**Chapter 5**

1. What has Lennie done as the section opens? What is his fear?
2. What personal information does Curley’s wife reveal to Lennie in the barn?
3. To console Lennie over the death of his puppy, Curley’s wife tells him that he can get another one, that “the whole country is fulla mutts.” What is the significance of this line?
4. Why does Curley’s wife get angry when Lennie tells her that George said he shouldn’t talk to her?
5. Why does Curley’s wife offer to let Lennie stroke her hair?
6. Why does Curley’s wife become afraid of Lennie as he’s stroking her hair?
7. Why does Lennie kill Curley’s wife?
8. Why does Lennie leave Curley’s wife body in the barn, but take the puppy with him when he leaves to go to the river?

***Thematic Analysis: Dreams***

A theme is 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: “This is a book about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” One of the major themes in *Of Mice and Men* is the elusiveness of dreams; several characters’ hopes have been dashed by the end of chapter 5.

**Directions:** 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.

|  |
| --- |
| **George and Lennie** |
| Dream:  How it dies: |
| **Crooks** |
| Dream:  How it dies: |
| **Candy** |
| Dream:  How it dies: |
| **Curley’s Wife** |
| Dream:  How it dies: |

**Lessons Learned**

What message is the author giving the readers? Will anyone’s dream come to fruition? How do you feel after examining this rather depressing theme?

**Chapter 6**

1. The novel ends where it began, in the clearing by the river. What is the atmosphere established by the description at the beginning of the final section?
2. What is the purpose of Aunt Clara’s appearance in Lennie’s mind’s eye?
3. What does Lennie fear his punishment will be?
4. Why does the giant rabbit appear to Lennie?
5. Why does George’s struggle with the description of the farm when Lennie asks him to recite it to him there, on the river bank?
6. What is Slim’s role at the end of the story?
7. What is the significance of Carlson asking George if Lennie had his gun and supplying the story that George wrestled the gun away from Lennie and shot him.
8. When George – obviously upset – and Slim go for a drink, Carlson remarks, “Now what the hell ya suppose is eatin’ them two guys?” Why doesn’t he understand?

***Symbolism:*** Symbols, objects that represent other things, are significant literary elements; they become a type of shorthand for particular ideas or concepts in a piece of literature.

**Directions:** The following are recurring symbols in *Of Mice and Men*. Explain how the symbols are alike and what they represent.

1. the rabbits as symbols of George and Lennie’s dreams
2. the fate of Candy’s dog as a symbol of Lennie’s ultimate fate and human tragedy
3. the color red as a symbol of danger or trouble
4. the bunk house as a symbol of danger for Lennie
5. Curley’s wife as a symbol of women of the early twentieth century