Of Mice and Men

Chapter Three

1. What is Susy's place? What does the popularity of Susy's place show us?

2. When talking to Slim about Lennie, George says, "Funny...I used to have a hell of a lot of fun with 'im. Used to play jokes on 'im 'cause he was too dumb to take care of 'imself. But he was too dumb even to know he had a joke played on him...Tell you what made me stop that. One day a bunch of guys was standin' around up on the Sacramento River. I was feelin' pretty smart.



I turns to Lennie and says, 'Jump in.' An' he jumps. Couldn't swim a stroke. He damn near drowned before we could get him. An' he was so damn nice to me for pullin' him out. Clean forgot I told him to jump in. Well, I ain't done nothing like that no more." What does this passage show us about Lennie? About George? About Slim?

3. What are the two card games that George half-heartedly plays during this chapter? Assign some symbolic significance to either or both of the card games in the chapter.

- 4. Carlson wants to put Candy's dog out of its misery. Candy wants the dog to remain alive. Who's right? Why? Also, symbolically connect the dog to Candy himself.
- 5. How much money does Candy have? Where did he get the money? Why is Candy so keen to join George and Lennie on their dream farm?
- 6. Why does Curley attack Lennie? Look closely at the scene. At what point does Lennie react/defend himself? What's the significance of this?
- 7. Lennie has just maimed the boss' son. What does Slim do to ensure that George and Lennie won't get fired?

