OF MICE AND MEN by John Steinbeck

TEXT BASED QUESTIONS

Please answer the following TBQs with well composed, concise, grammatically correct responses (approx. 100-150 words). Include textual evidence when required or as necessary (with in-text citation/parenthetical citation).

P.1-16 (Chapter 1)

1. Describe George. Specify whether the author uses direct or indirect characterization to convey information about George.

2. Describe Lennie. Specify whether the author uses direct or indirect characterization to convey information about George.

3. What can we infer about George and Lennie’s relationship? Include textual evidence.

4. What inference can be made about George and Lennie’s lifestyle? How does the author communicate this information? Include textual evidence.

5. What dream do George and Lennie share? Explain how the dream indirectly characterizes them.

6. What inference can be made from George telling Lennie where to go if he gets in trouble? What literary technique might the author be using here?

7. Discuss the author’s use of dialogue in this section—specifically discuss what the author is able to accomplish effectively through the use of dialogue.

P. 17-37 (Chapter 2)

1. Discuss the literary techniques used at the beginning of the chapter.

2. Describe Curley.

3. Discuss Curley’s wife. (why the author does not name Curley’s wife; why does George warn Lennie to stay away from her, etc.)

4. Draw a connection between Slim drowning the newborn pups and Carlson wanting Candy to shoot his old dog. Discuss.

5. Discuss Slim’s characterization.

P.38-65 (Chapter 3)

1. Discuss the purpose of the author’s use of dialogue, specifically, between Slim and George, in this chapter. (HINT: What information is revealed about George and Lennie’s past history and relationship?)

2. What did George do once that made him stop playing jokes on Lennie? What does George tell Slim that happened in Weed?

3. Discuss Candy. (Why might he be so attached to his dog? Why does he want to join George and Lennie in pursuing the dream ranch? How did he get two hundred and fifty dollars?)

4. Comment on the incident having to do with Carlson and Candy’s old dog.

P. 66-83 (Chapter 4)

1. Comment on how Crooks treats Lennie.

2. By the end of the chapter, why does Crooks decide to withdraw his offer to join Lennie, George, and Candy in their venture to buy their own farm? (HINT: Who breaks his spirit?)

P. 84-98 (Chapter 5)

1. Discuss how the author further develops the characterization of Curley’s wife in this chapter? (What do we learn about her through her dialogue with Lennie?)

P. 99-107 (Chapter 6)

1. Draw a parallel between George and Lennie and Candy and his old dog.

2. Comment whether George was justified in what he did to Lennie.

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