



John Steinbeck. *Of Mice and Men*



1. Where does the beginning of the story take place? (p. 1)
2. What do you know about the river and the town mentioned in the text? (p. 1)
3. Describe the valley as well as the animals that come to visit it in the evenings (p. 1)
4. There is a path through the willows and among the sycamores, which is described as “beaten hard”. Why? (p. 1, 2nd par.)
5. Who emerged from the path and came into the opening by the green pool? (p. 1, 3rd par.)
6. How does the writer catch the reader’s attention? (p. 1, 3rd par. “*Evening of a hot day started the little wind to moving among the leaves...*”)
- rabbits _____ a stilted heron _____
7. How did the men walk? Does it have any significance for the reader? (p. 1, 4th par.)
8. How are the men dressed? Describe them in detail. (p. 1, 4th par.)
9. How is the first man described? What does he look like? (p. 1, 4th par.)
10. How is the second man described? What does he look like? (p. 1, 4th par.)
11. Could you guess who is the leader? Why? (p. 1, 5th par.)
12. Why was the first man nervous when they stopped in the clearing? (p. 1, 5th par.)
13. What are the men’s names?
14. Why was the first man angry when he said, “*We could just as well of rode clear to the ranch if...*”? (p. 2, 2nd par.) What did he mean by that “if”?
15. What did the second man forget? Does his “bad memory” have any significance for the story? (p. 2)
16. What does Lennie take out of his pocket that gets him yelled at by George? (p. 2, middle part)
17. What does Lennie want to do with it? “*What you want of a, anyways?*” (p. 3, 1st par.)
18. Where are George and Lennie going? (p. 3)
19. From where are George and Lennie coming? (p. 3)
20. What should not the second man do when they get to their destination? (p. 3, “*That we’re goin’ to is right down there about a quarter mile...*”)
21. Why do you think the men had to leave the last place they were at? (p. 3)
22. Why did they decide to spend a night in the clearing? (p. 3)

Other characters:

- Candy, an old handyman;
- Crooks, a lively, sharp-witted, black stable-hand;
- Curley’s wife;

23. Discuss the ending of the novel. What happened? How do you understand it? (pp. 4–5)
24. At the beginning of the novel, George represents the American dream, while at the end he is the typical Man of the Depression? Why?
25. What do you know about the Great Depression?
 - a worldwide economic crisis, the 1930s, the stock-market crash of October 29, 1929
 - unemployment
 - Herbert Hoover (1874–1964), 31st president, 1929–1933
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882–1945), 32nd president, 1933–1945
26. From what point of view is the story told?
27. What is the theme of the novel?