

Great depression assignment

[History](#)



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Steinbeck teaches us that as humans, loneliness and the desire for companionship is inevitable and in this cruel world where we are all set against one another as rivals for the resources needed to survive, true friendships are to be cherished for they are hard to come by. As humans, we are all subject to loneliness at some points in our lives, and we all desire companionship, no matter how indifferent we may act to mask that desire. In *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, Curley's wife is incredibly lonely as the only woman on the ranch and is often isolated from the ranch hands who view her as trouble.

She is often seen prancing around the ranch in the pretense of searching for her husband and often attempts to engage other ranch hands in friendly conversation. During her conversation in the stables with Crooks, Candy, and Leonie, she remarked, 'Effendi I don't like to talk to somebody ever' once in a while? Think like to stick in that house all time?' (Steinbeck, 77). This was particularly important as it displays her loneliness and desire for companionship. However, her friendly sees is often seen as flirtatiousness to the other men, and this results in their view of her as an unfed dutiful and dangerous woman.

Crooks, just like Curley's wife, suffers from loneliness as well, though his isolation results from his race instead of his words and actions. As shown during his conversation with Leonie in the stables, Crooks remarks that "if he sees something', he don't know whether its right or not" and he has no one to ask and "nothing to measure by" (Steinbeck 73). He had also cried that if "a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick" (Steinbeck 73). This was important as well for it showed just how desperately we desire companionship.

If we had no one besides us, we get so lonely and desperate that we became sick due to the lack of company. The desire for companionship and loneliness are inevitable parts of human life that we all experience from time to time, though we may all deal with it in various methods, with some acting more indifferent than others. In this world with a population of around 7 billion and extremely limited resources, we are born into a dog-eat-dog world. The competition for resources took a turn for the worse when the Great Depression hit in the asses. Facing this harsh reality in which men are set against each other in a competition for the sparse jobs and meager money, which was then used to purchase a piece of land. This was the dream of every man, but alas, in a world of worsening economy, very few saw their dream to fruition. As Curley's wife had observed in the novella, if she engaged one man in a conversation, they'd get along just fine and have a nice chat. However, if she attempts to engage a group of men in a conversation, they'd all be too scared of each other to talk to her, they'd be too scared that the others may "get so meeting" on them.

This observation shows the hostility hidden beneath the pretense of friendly relations the men have with one another. The minute the rest "gets something" on one of the men, they eliminate him so they'd have less competition for the resources, in this case, money and jobs. When Candy, George, and Lennie were first entertaining the idea of owning a stake together, George had warned them not to tell a soul for "they liable to can us so we can't make no SST aka" (Steinbeck 61). This warning displays the distrust among the men.

Perhaps this is why true friends are cherished and mourned when lost, for in this hostile world, it is difficult to come by, but a great blessing in times of hardship. The world is cruel and hostile, and men are all set out to get one another. Loneliness and the desire for companionship is inevitable, we will all expire once it is our bedtime at one point or another, and it will only teach us to cherish our companions more.

After all, true companions are hard to come by in this harsh reality in which we are all born as rivals battling for the same limited resources we need to survive. Steinbeck had, through his profound use and command of the English language, taught us, in the simplest way, how to understand one another better. The key to communication and relations among English people is the understanding of each other, and through it, Steinbeck has taught us just how we can begin to understand one another.