

Of mice and men: character lennie essay

[Literature](#), [Novel](#)



Of Mice and Men is a novel written by George Steinbeck. The book presents what was taking place in Californian state during the time of the Great Depression. Having been published in the year 1937, this novel tells of the tragic story of Milton George and Small Lennie who are two displaced nomadic ranch workers during the time of the Great Depression in the state of California. The major part of this text analyzes the struggle of these two individuals in the state of California trying to make their lives better.

After a very long struggle in life and continued help for one another, the two try hard to survive in the state. Later George decides to shoot Lennie at the back of his head. He does this to make sure his brother's death remains happy and painless. Although many do not understand why George had to kill his good friend, it is notable that he did so out of love and nothing else for that matter.

As they were walking along, George scolded Lennie for playing with a dead mouse and telling him not to talk to him until they arrive at their new location and be employed. Because Lennie loved soft things he kept the dead mouse. As there were on the way, George asked Lennie: "What you gonna say tomorrow when the boss asks you a question (15)?" In response, Lennie stated that: "I...I ain't gonna...say a word (15)." As we can see from this, Lennie was not capable of making his own decisions without being helped by George. Lennie always what George told him to do. This is an outstanding character of Lennie as noted from the novel.

We can also say that Lennie in the novel is portrayed as a desperate but indecisive character. This is the main reason he always followed whatever

George proposed to be done. He also complained frequently over a number of issues. For example when Lennie complained of not having ketchup during their evening meal, George became furious. He told Lennie that he would be better off and he did not have to look after him.

Another outstanding thing about Lennie is that he was contemplative. This can be noted at his lover for soft things. Also, after making up once again, George talked to Lennie about his dream where they had made plenty of money and had purchased a huge piece of land. They then developed a small ranch with vegetable patches and rabbit hutch. This shows that Lennie must be a parasite relying on other people for support because he cannot help himself.

Another important character depicted by Lennie is that he is a good-natured person. After being suspected of committing rape, he did not take it serious and that did not consume his happiness and desire to live. Lennie was also attentive because he always made sure he visited all the people he had promised to. While most of the men at the ranch went to a local whorehouse one evening, Lennie decided to visit Crooks. Crooks was impolite and rude to Lennie until he later realized that Lennie had no bad intentions at all. Candy joined the two men, for they were the only ones left in the ranch.

Another character of Lennie is that he is a dreamer. Steinbeck emphasized on the theme of dreams throughout his book through this character. George is the person who aspires for his own independence and be a master of himself. Lennie therefore aspires to achieve the same thing with his friend

George. His quench for soft things is also another outstanding character of Lennie.

Lennie is also a lonely man since he is unable to achieve much on his own and without the support of George. This character has therefore played a major role towards the reading of this text. Lennie is also noted to possess strong physical strength compared with all the other characters. It is this sense of strength which is anticipated to the establishment of respect. This also earns him employment as a ranch worker. Lennie has also been presented by the author as a weak and unable to effectively take good care of himself.

Another character that comes out of Lennie is that he is mentally handicapped and the reason he behaves so strongly throughout the novel. Also, Lennie's life is in danger for several occasions. Being mentally challenged, Lennie becomes a different kind of person who can even take care of himself. After facing his death after being killed by George, Lennie had been in danger and his life had not been happy. This action by George is thus seen as an act of heroism as he helps in getting rid of all the problems he faces in his life.

There above presented characters are therefore enough to explain the kind of person who Lennie was and how significant he was towards the success of the novel. It is through his characters that this book has been taught and read successfully by scholars. These characters are also necessary because through them the characters of other people in the book can be understood.

Of Mice and Men is therefore one of Americans all-time classic novels. This book presents an illustration of George and his slow-minded friend Lennie. This book has been able to influence the hearts and minds of many generations after it was written by the author in the year 1937. Through the book, Steinbeck was interested in showing the Americans of their dreams and how they had been filled with shrewd colors. The author also wanted to present different argumentations by the use of Lennie's and Georges characters. The novel thus shows that the lack of attention from other people was a common problem during the time of depression.

From this book, it will be agreed that all Lennie and George wanted was to be free and own their own ranches and never have to rely on anyone else for their needs and happiness. They wanted to be accepted in the society the same way there were. George wanted to be like the rabbits in the beginning of the book that were hanging around in a safe place where there was plenty of food. Without his friend, Lennie, it is very true that no one can be able to move on and obtain his dream without having his friend side by side.