

Journal on john steinbeck of mice and men

[Literature](#), [Russian Literature](#)



After having read the description of the novel, my expectations were that this would have been a typical story of a good ending, no matter how thrilling the suspension. In the end, it may make the plot seem to be. However, upon reading it, it was becoming clearer that Steinbeck's use of certain details and foreshadowing in the text was already suggesting the outcome resulting otherwise. For example, at the very beginning, the name of the town, Salinas, and the fact that George and Lennie were going through a drought, already makes the reader think that the place is connected with solitary, loneliness.

These guys have a dream together, that Lennie likes to be repeated to him by George. They want to earn enough money to buy a farm, and "live off the fat of the land" with Lennie tending the rabbits. A common dream during their days, American Dream. It did seem that they could have achieved it, until the first foreshadowing came into place. When Lennie was mentioned, Lennie's enjoyment of touching nice-looking, soft objects/material. That got him in trouble at a previous farm where George and Lennie were working on, when he just wanted to feel a girl's dress, and he was too simple-minded to let go of it, when the girl began to protest.

The novel started with George and Lennie running away from the previous farm to work in another one, in order to escape persecution and to start earning for their American dream. New individual characters then came into play - Candy, Crooks, Curley, and Curley's wife, but it would be more appropriate to describe the main characters, Lennie and George first. Lennie is a strong, tall, but a mentally handicapped man, who trusts and admires George completely. He was perhaps a rather simple character, but one that

arises sympathy cause of his defensiveness against Curlers aggression, and taunts from Curlers wife.

George can be described as exact opposite of Leonie, being short-tempered, quick-witted but nevertheless caring for Leonie. Even though he showed frustration numerous times because he couldn't fully enjoy life as he had to look after Leonie, he was devoted In protecting Leonie from trouble until the very end. Candy was an ageing worker that lost halls hand In an accident on that farm, and was expecting from day-to-day to be fired because of his disability. Just like his dog was shot by Carlson, after the dog was too old to be useful in his opinion.

He also wanted to contribute in George and Leonie getting a farm, and seemed to believe that it was going to be possible even after Leonie unintentionally killed Curlers wife. Crooks was a black man with a crooked back, smart, but always left out of from the workers' company, and therefore, extremely lonely. He admitted that when Leonie came into his room and started talking to him. He was one of the vulnerable type of characters, but like Curlers wife, turns that vulnerability into a weapon and attacks characters who are even lower than himself, like Leonie.

He suggested to Leonie that George wouldn't come back and the dreadful possibilities and asked what would Leonie do then. Nevertheless It seemed that the discriminationIs what made him a little cruel and lonely In that sense. Curler represented an evil character In the novel, being arrogant and always trying to pick fights, especially with guys bigger than him. He was fight with Leonie for no particular reason, Leonie smashes every bone in his

hand in self-defense. Curly's wife was described by other characters as a Sailboat or a tart.

She was unhappily married and out of boredom and loneliness walked around the ranch and flirted with the other workers. Her death from Lennie's hands caused an end to George and Lennie's American dream. Carlson was the type of character, who, after working for years on the farm and caring only about himself became selfish to the point where he couldn't understand what friendship simply meant. He shot Candy's old dog because he saw that it was only as useless, and "stinking", even though that was the only friend Candy had. There were many themes presented in the novel, some of which strongly describe the grim aspects of human nature.

Nearly all the characters in *Mice and Men*, including George, Lennie, Candy, Crooks, and Curly's wife, admit, at one time or another, to have a sense of loneliness and isolation. That is what sort of connects them all. Each of them desires the comfort of a friend, but will settle for the attentive ear of a stranger. Curly's wife admits to Candy, Crooks, and Lennie that she is unhappily married, and Crooks tells Lennie that life is no good without a companion to turn to in times of confusion and need. The characters are depressed by their isolation, and yet, even at their weakest, they seek to intimidate those who are even weaker than they.

Another theme is the impossibility of the "American Dream". Many characters - George, Lennie, Candy, Crooks and even Curly's wife had a dream that became unrealistic in the novel. George and Lennie's dream of owning a farm, which would enable them to sustain themselves, and, most

important, offer them protection from the cruel world, represents a typical American ideal. Curly's wife's death, which awakens George to the impossibility of this dream, and sadly proves that the bitter Crooks is right, such paradises of freedom, contentment, and safety are something not to be found in this world.