

Of Mice and Men Chapter Summaries

Chapter I



- This chapter starts by first introducing the setting and then leading into the description of the two main characters, George and Lennie
 - George sees that Lennie is petting a dead mouse in his gigantic hand and demands that Lennie drop it, as it is not "fresh".
 - Lennie gets upset which then makes George mad and George indicates that he would be better off without Lennie.
 - Lennie decides he can go live in a cave up in the hills and fend for himself, but George feels bad and tells Lennie he doesn't want him to leave.
 - They talk about how they are going to have a place for themselves and have all sorts of animals.
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Chapter II



- At the farm, they meet Candy
 - This old man has one hand cut off and has the permanent job of sweeping the grounds. He also has an extremely old dog that has lost his teeth and smells horrible.
 - The Boss comes into the bunkhouse and expresses his frustration with George and Lennie and informs them they will be going out in the afternoon to work. The boss asks Lennie a question, and is suspicious that George doesn't let him talk
 - After he leaves, Curley, a short little fellow comes into the bunkhouse and demands to know if they have seen his wife. He does not like Lennie for the sole reason of his imposing size.
 - After he leaves, Curley's wife walks into the bunkhouse, and asks about the whereabouts of Curley.
 - Lennie is clearly drawn to her, and George warns him to keep away from her
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Chapter III



- George and Slim are sitting at the card table talking.
 - Slim had just given one of his new puppies to Lennie who is having the time of his life petting his puppy in the barn.
 - Slim and George start talking about Lennie and how he is the hardest worker Slim had ever seen and how he is such a nice guy.
 - George goes into the details of how he has to take care of Lennie and how Lennies always gets himself in trouble.
 - Carlson then makes a comment that Candy should take his dog out of it's misery and shoot it. After much deliberation, Candy decides to let Carlson shoot his dog.
 - Curley enters the bunkhouse again looking for his forever lost wife and then is informed that Slim is in the barn and he quickly jumps to conclusion that Slim is with his wife.
 - Candy overhears George and Lennie talking about their dreams for the future, and offers them money if he can come in with them
 - Their dream suddenly seems to be becoming a reality
 - Everyone comes back and starts making fun of Curley because he accused Slim of messing around with his wife.
 - Curley being irritated decides to fight Lennie.
 - However, Lennie ends up breaking Curley's fist, showing his strength again
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Chapter IV



- The next day all the boys except Lennie, Candy and Crooks go into town to blow some of their money off.
 - The buck hand is an African American. He has crooked back so they call him Crooks.
 - Crooks at first does not want Lennie to come into his little shack that is separated from the bunkhouse, but then seems to like Lennie's company.
 - Crooks plays a mean game on Lennie by telling Lennie that George is not coming back from town. Lennie gets mad, but Crooks says he is just kidding.
 - Candy comes in and talks to Lennie about how him, George and Lennie are all leaving the ranch and buying a place
 - Curley's Wife comes to the door, and asserts what little power she has on the farm over Crooks by threatening him that she could have him lynched
 - The chapter ends with Crooks again withdrawn, and alone in his stable
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Chapter V



- Everyone is outside playing horseshoes but Lennie is inside
 - He has killed his puppy with his immense strength
 - Curley's wife enters the barn.
 - Curley's wife starts talking about her life and how she really does not like Curley and Lennie just keeps on talking about tending rabbits
 - Curley's wife asks Lennie to touch her soft hair. Lennie is instantly obsessed with her soft hair and will not let go when she asks him to stop.
 - Curley's wife starts yelling and Lennie tries to stop her yelling but accidentally snaps her neck and kills her.
 - Lennie knows he has done a very bad thing so he goes to the place George told him to go when he gets in trouble which was back by the Salinas River.
 - Candy comes into the barn to ask Lennie a question but to his surprise finds Curley's wife dead and Lennie gone.
 - Candy shows George of his findings and George asks Candy to go tell the others while he pretends he never saw her as they will think he is in on the murder with Lennie.
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Chapter VI



- This chapter goes back to Lennie who is sitting in the spot he and George were when they slept under the stars
- Lennie then gets delusional and sees his dead aunt. She is telling Lennie he did a bad thing and that George will never forgive him
- Then the dead aunt becomes a huge rabbit that is saying the same thing to Lennie as the aunt did.
- Lennie snaps out of it when he sees George is now there.
- Lennie expects George to be furious yet he is calm and pleasant.
- Lennie says he is sorry and George knows that. Then Lennie asks George to tell him about the place they are going to get with the rabbits.
- George and Lennie sit together and look at the hills as George talks about their place with the rabbits.
- George then shoots Lennie in the back of the head to prevent the others from torturing him