

Of Mice and Men - Chapter 3

The chapter begins, again, as always with a description of the setting. This is the bunkhouse. Slim and George come in after a days' work and Slim compliments Lennie's work rate to George and says he has 'never' seen such a strong guy. George expresses pride about Lennie saying he's stupid but 'he sure can _____'. Slim invites George into his confidence by asking why they go around together and George confides in Slim and tells him about how he used to tease and bully Lennie when they were young. George said he liked it because it made him feel confident because Lennie is stupid and it made him look good. George tells Slim about the day he told Lennie to jump in the _____ river, so Lennie did and nearly died because he couldn't swim. George pulled him out and Lennie was really thankful for it and George felt terrible as it was his fault. They then became friends because George realised he was a nice guy and hated the way people treated him.

Slim compliments Lennie and tells George that Lennie is a '_____'. He makes an intuitive observation when he says 'Guy don't need no sense to be a nice fella...works the other way around...Take a real smart guy and he ain't hardly ever a nice fella'. George and Slim agree that people who go around the ranches on their own end up 'mean'. George then takes Slim further into his confidence and tells Slim about the incident in Weed where the girl cried rape because she was scared and so they sent a party out to _____ Lennie and they were forced to run away. This conversation shows that people feel comfortable with Slim and he inspires confidence in people, it shows he is a leader and authoritative, but also sensible. He doesn't chastise Lennie or George because he can see Lennie has problems and doesn't mean to do what he does. Slim passes his judgement on Slim when he says 'he _____' 'I can tell a mean guy a mile off'.

Carlson and Candy enter the barn and almost immediately, Carlson starts a conversation about Candy's dog and how he should get rid of it. He points out to everyone that the dog is no good anymore and is useless, he was a working sheepdog and now he is useless, 'he ain't no good to you Candy. An he ain't no good to himself. Whyn't you shoot him Candy'. Candy tries to argue back but 'Carlson was _____'. He suggests taking him out the back and shooting him in the back of the head so he wouldn't feel a thing. Foreshadowing the end of the book, Candy says he can't face doing it and so Carlson offers. Candy desperately appeals to anyone for help to argue to keep his dog alive, but Slim agrees with Carlson and says that he wishes 'somebody'd shoot me if I got old an a cripple'. Candy realises he has lost the argument because 'Slim's opinions were _____'.

Whit enters the bunkhouse and temporarily diverts everyone, he shows them a pulp magazine that an ex-ranch worker has had a letter published in. He had left the ranch and achieved his dream and they all examine the magazine in admiration. _____ represents someone who has _____ something. However, during the whole conversation Carlson refused to be drawn in and Carlson won't be persuaded so Candy reluctantly gives in and Carlson takes the dog. All the men are silent in honour of Candy and Slim again offers him a pup as comfort. Slim insisted that Carlson take a shovel to do the dog the dignity of burial, he has a sense of what's right.

The ranch hands hear a shot in the distance and the deed is done. All the men carry on with what they are doing until Crooks summons Slim to the barn to tar a mule's heel. George and Whit have a brief conversation and Whit repeats the warning about Curley's wife and says she is so easy she probably even gives the _____ the eye – of course Crooks is at the bottom of the hierarchy which implies that she's that desperate she'll take anyone. George then tells Whit she is 'jailbait all set on the trigger' and he realises the potential for danger for himself and Lennie.

Whit tells George to come to _____ place tomorrow (Saturday) night. He tells him about the fact it's clean compared to Clara's and the girls are clean. You can sit and drink or go with a prostitute. This gives us a further insight into the life of a ranch-hand. George stresses he'll drink but he won't go with a woman as they are saving for better things – George indicates he doesn't have a good opinion of women and they are presented as just _____ in this chapter. The only women spoken of are Curley's wife who is a tart and the brothel women. George gives his dim view of

women, he says he prefers whores because they aren't complicated, a man can satisfy his needs and then walk away with no trouble.

Carlson returns after shooting the dog and then Curley follows demanding to know where his wife is, he realises she might be in the barn with Slim and goes after him. Carlson observes that he doesn't think Slim is going with Curley's wife but he does say he wants to see what'll happen as the ranch hands are keen on narrow-minded gossip. George won't go and will not let Lennie go either as he is determined for them not to get involved with anything to do with ranch life as they are different. They are fighting to not follow the normal _____ for people like that. They want to follow their dreams if they can work hard enough. They begin again to discuss their farm dream, forgetting Candy is still depressed and lying on the bed.

They talk about it in much more detail this time and the dream is brought to life through the imagery used to describe it. George describes what meat they will eat, how thick the _____ will be, what fruit trees they'll have and how they will have friends round.

Candy has been listening and joins in. He has become carried away by their dream and he wants in. George is suspicious until Curley says he has the funds from losing his arm to make their dream a very close reality and he will offer his labour. Candy says he is scared as he knows his usefulness will end soon and then they will 'can' him. He parallels his story to his dog and says 'you seen what they did to my dog'. He says he wishes when he outlives his usefulness at the ranch '_____ ' him. It seems to be a feature of this society and an ingrained culture that you are only worth what you can do for others. Their dream has given him hope of a life after the ranch. They agree to keep it a secret and they are very excited. They end their conversation with Candy's note of regret, he says he shouldn't have let anyone shoot his dog, he should have done it himself. He loved the dog and he should've seen it into the next life not a _____ .

Curley enters the bunkhouse with Slim and Carlson still arguing. Slim openly accuses him of not being able to control his wife and Carlson also argues with Curley. Curley is in a massive rage now and turns round and sees Lennie smiling, he is still thinking about the idea of the farm. It enrages Curley as he thinks he's being laughed at so he starts to beat Lennie. He is scared stiff and won't defend himself he cannot move. He is like a wounded bear and Steinbeck says he 'covered his face with his huge paws and _____ with terror'. Bleated suggests he like a lamb, innocent and defenceless, yet we know he has the strength of a bear.

George can't bear to see Lennie being beaten and out of protection over his companion and a sense of justice that he is being bullied, George tells Lennie to 'get him' and fight back. Lennie crushes Curley's hand and won't let go because he's terrified. Curley was '_____ like a fish on a line' and his fist was 'lost' in Lennie's hand. This illustrates his strength and power over Curley even though he doesn't even know it. The damage to his hand is done, the ranch hands are shocked and Slim particularly realises now just how _____ Lennie is.

The ranch hands take their chance and bully Curley and tell him that they will tell everyone he got beaten up and lost the fight if he tries to get Lennie or George fired. Lennie is still terrified, but because of his _____ and lack of understanding about what he has done, the only consequence he is worried about is whether George will still let him tend the rabbits. George tells him it's fine and that he doesn't need to be scared anymore.

somebody'd shoot	sexual objects	ain't mean'	cream
not to be put off	achieved	take orders	Bill Tenner
destiny	Sacramento	stranger	powerful
flopping	bleated	Suzy's	nice fella
lynch	law	innocence	stable-buck

