

Of Mice and Men

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 begins as the book did, with a description of the pool. It again seems peaceful and beautiful just as it did when they arrived. The scene is slightly different in that the heron catches and _____ the snake, perhaps reflecting the balance of power now – ie Lennie is about to be _____ and there is nothing he can do.

Lennie appears out of the brush like a ' _____ ' and he drops to his knees by the pool and drinks like an _____. Lennie repeats his punishment to himself as he has done so many times before, that George will tell him off and he will go away to a cave. Aunt Clara suddenly appears to him out of his _____ and berates him for causing George trouble. Aunt Clara represents, perhaps the first authority figure that Lennie recognised. Lennie's guilty conscience at causing George pain and trouble is revealed through her.

Next, Lennie has a vision of a _____ rabbit. This rabbit makes fun of Lennie for thinking he could tend them, he tells Lennie he'll never get to now and that George will _____ him. The rabbit _____ Lennie by saying this, but this represents the shattering of Lennie's dreams. Somewhere in Lennie's subconscious, he knows that what he has done this time is so bad that he will never get to tend the rabbits now.

The rabbit disappears and in its place, George arrives. Lennie knows he has done a 'bad thing' and so he wants to go through the usual performance with George where George tells him off, Lennie apologises, but then George forgives him and life goes on as normal. George _____ with the performance but very half-heartedly as he knows what he has to do. As George takes Lennie through the little performance, all the time Steinbeck builds up the dramatic tension by having the shouts of the approaching mob led by Curley, getting closer and closer to them.

George begins to _____ the dream for the last time, it has a calming and soothing effect on them both, while weighing up the exact point to shoot at Lennie's head. As the mob get nearer and nearer, George is forced to take the action he does not want to. He tells Lennie he was ' _____ ' mad with him before he shoots him in the back of the head. George has saved Lennie from pain and humiliation at the hands of the Curley and the mob. The mob crash into the clearing seconds after George has killed Lennie.

The men are surprised by the scene they find and even Curley exclaims ' _____ ' when he sees the body. Slim is the only person who notices George's distress and understands the true motivation for killing Lennie. He says 'A guy _____ sometimes'. George is still shocked by his actions but the insensitive ranchhands are almost thrilled and fascinated by the chase.

Again Slim tries to comfort George and said 'You hadda George. I _____ .' Curley and Carlson look after them and say 'now what the hell you suppose is eating them two guys?'. This is symbolic of the attitude of the ranch hands, they have no emotional

attachments, they live life on their own and care about no one, so Lennie's death in any circumstances would not be a big deal for them. It is only Slim with his _____ understanding of human nature, who can understand George's feelings. Steinbeck's very bleak picture of society and opportunities for people in America during the 1930s is complete. He felt that if you were from a deprived background, opportunities would never open for you, so therefore the American dream will always become a _____ dream. Even if you work hard and try to achieve your dreams, it does not mean that they will come true. It was a powerful and damning indictment of society at that time.

recite	Got to	torments	Swear you hadda
intuitive	head	giant	Plays along
kills	never	broken	Creeping bear
leave	animal	caught	By god