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**IDX G9 English S+ STUDY GUIDE ISSUE 5**

**By Virginia**

**Part one summary for OF MICE AND MEN**

Chapter 1

Setting: The Salinas River, near Soledad, California.

Main Characters Introduced: George and Lennie.

Key Events:

- George and Lennie are traveling to a new ranch for work.

- They discuss their dream of owning a farm and living off the land.

- Lennie has a dead mouse in his pocket, which George takes away.

- George warns Lennie to avoid trouble at the new ranch and tells him to return to the riverbank if anything goes wrong.

- Lennie is obsessed with petting soft things, which has caused problems in the past.

Chapter 2

Setting: The bunkhouse at the ranch.

Key Events:

- George and Lennie meet Candy, the old swamper, and the boss.

- George lies to the boss, claiming Lennie is his cousin.

- They meet Curley, the boss’s son, who is aggressive and picks fights with Lennie.

- Curley’s wife appears, flirting with the men, making George uneasy.

- Slim, the skilled mule driver, is introduced, and his dog has just had puppies.

- Carlson suggests shooting Candy’s old, smelly dog, which foreshadows future events.

Chapter 3

Setting: The bunkhouse.

Key Events:

- George tells Slim about the incident in Weed where Lennie grabbed a girl’s dress, causing them to flee.

- Lennie is given a puppy by Slim, which he accidentally kills by petting it too hard.

- Carlson convinces Candy to let him shoot Candy’s old dog, symbolizing the harsh reality of weakness on the ranch.

- George, Lennie, and Candy discuss their shared dream of owning a farm, with Candy offering to contribute money.

- Curley picks a fight with Lennie, who crushes Curley’s hand in self-defense.

Chapter 4

Setting: Crooks’ room in the barn.

Key Events:

- Lennie visits Crooks, the African American stable hand, who is isolated due to his race.

- Crooks taunts Lennie by suggesting George might not return, causing Lennie to become angry.

- Candy joins them, and they discuss their dream of owning a farm.

- Curley’s wife enters, flirting with the men and threatening Crooks when he asks her to leave.

- Crooks initially offers to help with the farm but withdraws his offer after Curley’s wife’s threats.

- George is annoyed with Candy for mentioning their dream in front of Crooks.

Chapter 5

Setting: The barn.

Key Events:

- Lennie accidentally kills his puppy by petting it too hard.

- Curley’s wife enters and talks to Lennie about her dreams of becoming an actress.

- Lennie, confused and scared, accidentally kills Curley’s wife when she lets him touch her hair.

- Lennie flees to the riverbank, as George had instructed him to do if he got into trouble.

- Candy finds Curley’s wife’s body and alerts the other men, who form a lynch mob to hunt Lennie.

Chapter 6

Setting: The Salinas River, where the story began.

Key Events

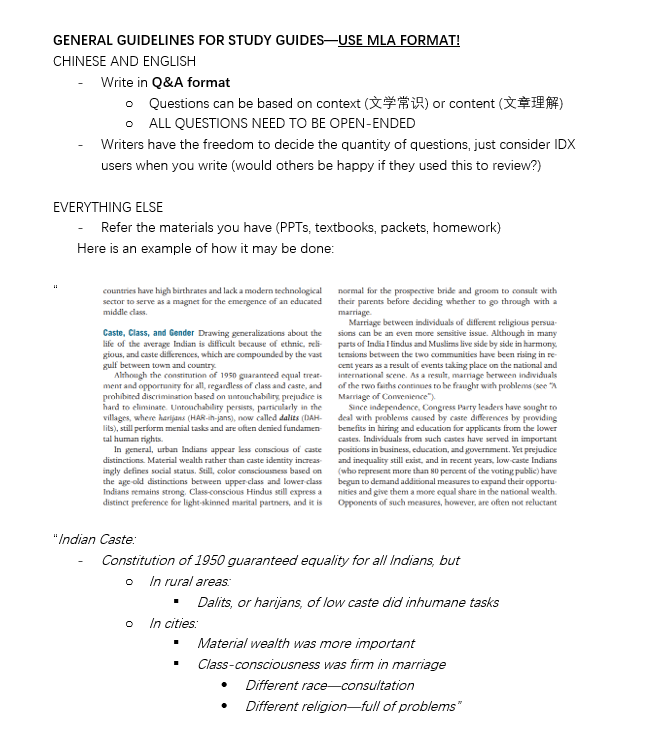
- Lennie waits by the riverbank, imagining Aunt Clara and a giant rabbit scolding him for his mistakes.

- George finds Lennie and reassures him before shooting him in the back of the head to spare him from a worse fate at the hands of the mob.

- Slim comforts George, understanding the difficult decision he had to make.

- The story ends with George and Slim walking away, leaving Lennie’s body by the river.

**Of Mice and Men Debate performance rubric**



Were the labor conditions in the United States fair?

- Depends on the time period—many workers faced harsh conditions like long hours, low pay, and unsafe environments.

- Some argue it was "fair" for the time, but others see it as exploitation.

- Workers had little power, and unions fought hard for basic rights.

- Compared to today, those conditions would seem wildly unfair.

Is the American Dream attainable?

- It’s about upward mobility and success through hard work, but not everyone has the same starting point.

- Systemic barriers like income inequality and access to education make it harder for some.

- Personal effort matters, but so does luck and opportunity.

- The dream’s meaning has shifted—what’s "success" now might look different than before.

Is what George did by killing Lennie immoral?

- It’s a tough call—George thought he was sparing Lennie from a worse fate.

- Was it mercy or murder? Depends on your view of morality.

- The harsh world they lived in didn’t offer many options for someone like Lennie.

Is Curley’s wife portrayed for or against women?

- She’s often seen as a stereotype—flirtatious, lonely, and trouble-causing.

- But you could argue she’s a victim of her time, stuck in a lonely, powerless role.

- Steinbeck might’ve been critiquing how women were treated, not just bashing her character.

- Readers can feel sorry for her or see her as a negative force—it’s up to interpretation.