George’s hand shakes uncontrollably. The cold gun sticks to his hand. He steadies his breath. “Bang!” The sound of the shot rings along the riverbank with a force like thunder in the mountains. Many characters in John Steinbeck’s riveting fiction novel *Of Mice and Men* are responsible for the death of Lennie Small. With so many to choose from, discovering who bears the brunt of the accountability can be difficult. George’s behaviors and actions point to him as the most obvious choice. George causes the death of his best friend Lennie. George intentionally leaves Lennie on his own while he goes into town, free to get in trouble, resulting in the ensuing manhunt and eventually, George’s brutal execution of his friend. Lennie passed on the burden and hassle that he embodied before George could handle it.

Ensuring that a guarded individual is safe at all times represents a key aspect of caregiving. George takes on the task of caring for Lennie when he really cannot handle it. George still wishes he could be off and alone in the world. This negative outlook does not provide George with much incentive to take care of Lennie. George says, “’I got you! You can’t keep a job and you lose me every job I get! …you get in trouble…I’ve gotta get you out! I wisht I could put you in a cage!’” (Steinbeck 12). This represents George’s way of trying to convince himself that he would be better off without Lennie in his life. This evidently shows that George does not want to take care of him. Therefore, he obviously he does not epitomize a caregiver for anyone, much less for Lennie. Overall, George takes on the task of caring for Lennie before he can deal with all of the responsibility that comes with it.