

# Of Mice And Men : characters

Match the character name in the boxes below to the description of each character.  
Write the name in the box provided.

George	Lennie	Curley	Curley's Wife	Aunt Clara
Carlson	The Boss	Candy	Curley	Slim
Crooks	The Rabbit	George	Lennie	

	When he is talking to Curley's wife, Steinbeck uses the adverb 'cautiously' to show the way he moves towards her. He 'chuckled' with pleasure in her company and through this verb Steinbeck is able to show his boyish innocence and his pleasure in the simple things of life. In moments of violence Steinbeck is still able to manipulate animal imagery; when they have finished chatting, he 'pawed' up the hay until it partly covered her.'
	He is patient and impatient; kind and unkind; difficult and easy to get on with. In many ways, Steinbeck uses this character to explore the complexity of man and the frustrations of life. He is loyal and when he has to, he defends those people who he feels are being unfairly criticised. He can be defensive. The reader is horrified when he 'raised the gun and steadied it' to bring Steinbeck's story to a tragic conclusion.
	Lennie 'ain't worth a greased jack-pin' according to this 'character'. He scolds and taunts Lennie and tells him that George is 'gonna beat hell' out of him. It is through this 'character' that Steinbeck is able to explore Lennie's inner conscience, which becomes increasingly unsettled and troubled in the final section of the book.
	Steinbeck uses this character to explore the theme of loneliness and outsiders. The boss treats him badly but he finds solace in literature and the written word. Steinbeck gives him some long speeches in section four which enables him to articulate his opinions about ranch workers. He doesn't go out on the Saturday night with the other men so he talks to Lennie.
	He is a skilled man. He is conscientious and has a high work ethic. There is 'gravity in his manner' and he deals with problems calmly and with assurance. He takes pride in his appearance and moves with 'majesty'. The image of royalty shows us that he is respected and has achieved a high status level on the ranch.
	Steinbeck uses animal imagery to describe this character. He 'stepped over ... like a terrier' which is a small, vicious, hunting dog. This reflects his character perfectly. He is pugnacious and the verb 'slugging' describes his brutality in section three. He sees women as property, objects, things to be owned.

	<p>Steinbeck is able to explore the theme of loneliness through this character. His other function is to provide some important background information about the ranch and the other characters. We sympathise with him. Steinbeck uses adverbs such as ‘nervously’ to describe him; he doesn’t have a great deal of money but he still holds on to a dream. He chats quite freely and openly with George and Lennie.</p>
	<p>Steinbeck sketches out this character skilfully; his tone of voice is often sarcastic and he doesn’t have a great deal of patience. He is inquisitive and wants to know what happened in Weed. He takes ‘short, quick steps’ as if he is in a hurry but he is methodical and organised. He is slightly incredulous of the relationship between George and Lennie.</p>
	<p>He is friendly enough but when he speaks he can be cruel, hurtful and insensitive. We could argue that he is not afraid to speak the truth. He is powerful and has a huge presence in the bunk house. He has a keen sense of humour and Steinbeck shows us that he is not intimidated when he calls Curley a ‘God damn punk.’ He threatens violence and he means it.</p>
	<p>This character has an important function in the novel because of their relationship to Lennie. Steinbeck is clever with his narrative because we don’t actually meet them. In fact, when they speak, they don’t even use their own voice. This character is ‘clean’ and frowns ‘disapprovingly’; she is a projection of Lennie’s consciousness and it is through her that Steinbeck reveals Lennie’s feeling of guilt.</p>
	<p>We could argue that this character is central to our appreciation of the whole text. When Steinbeck introduces this character to us we know that we are in the presence of an influential person; ‘the rectangle of sunshine in the doorway was cut off’ and time seems to stand still. Steinbeck goes to great lengths to repeat the adjective ‘red’.</p>
	<p>He appears and disappears; he comes and goes. Steinbeck uses emotive vocabulary to describe him. He is calculating and manipulative, which means that the other men are wary of him and his motives. He is self-conscious with a ‘brown face’ and ‘brown eyes’. He argues with Slim and towards the end of the novel he comes ‘suddenly to life’ and threatens revenge by using a vehement tone of voice.</p>
	<p>He is a multi-faceted character and beautifully portrayed through precise language and imagery by John Steinbeck. He is able to carry out basic chores, like making his bed, with minimum fuss but he does require assistance with many other things. He is ‘shapeless of face’ and he has ‘sloping shoulders’. He likes to be comforted; he likes women.</p>
	<p>He is complex with many different sides to his character. He can be caring but also quick to criticise, which makes him quite an enigma. When we first meet him he is described as ‘quick’ and ‘dark of face’. He also has ‘restless eyes’ so it is no surprise to discover that he is always on the look out for new opportunities and a better way of life.</p>