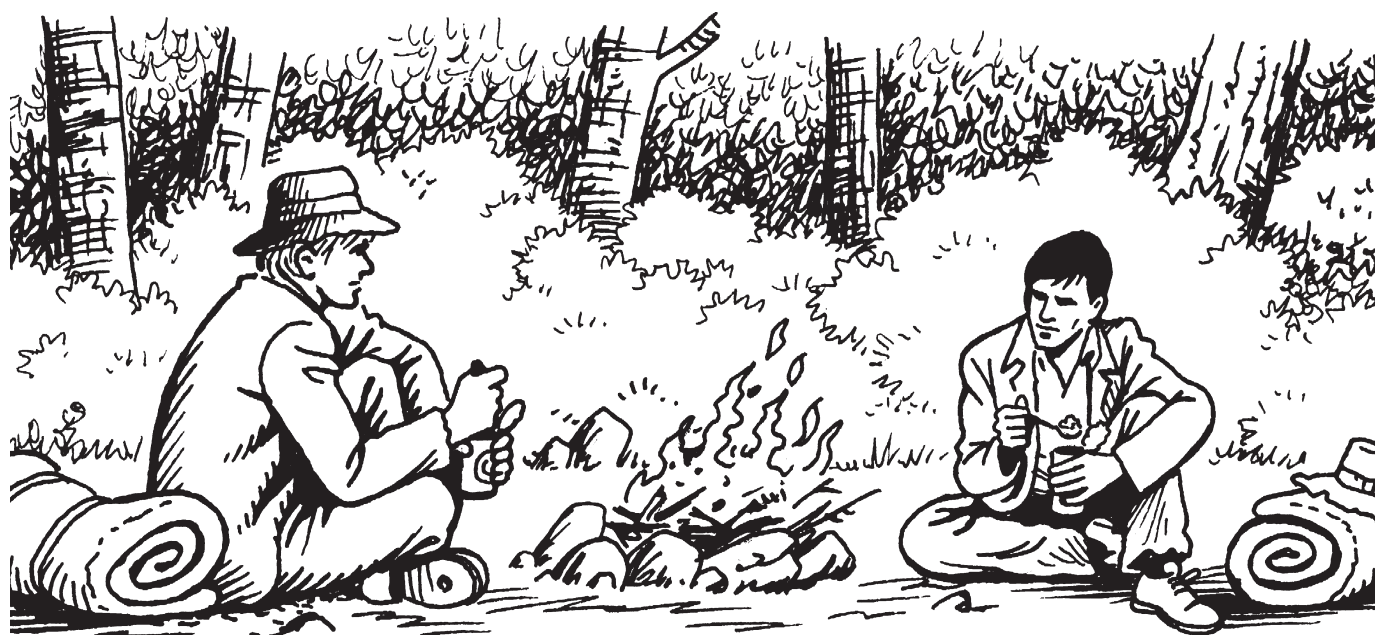


Contents

Teachers' notes	4–5	The author	
Background		Steinbeck's language – dialect	27
The whole story	6	Steinbeck's language – character	28
Who's who?	7	Steinbeck at the movies	29
Geography and biography	8	Character evaluation and relationships	
The Great Depression	9	Lennie's dream	30
Who says?	10	Friendship	31
First pages	11	Motives	32
A tell-tale title	12	Questions	33
What happens		Incident in Weed	34
Chapter 1	13	A marriage made in hell	35
Chapter 2	14	Mental handicap	36
Chapter 3	15	The issue of race	37
Chapter 4	16	Essay practice	
Chapter 5	17	Using quotations	38
Chapter 6	18	Curley's wife	39
Characters		Tragedy revealed	40
George	19	A modern-day fable	41
Lennie	20	The death of Candy's dog	42–43
Slim	21	Exam passages	
Candy	22	Exam passage 1	44–45
Curley	23	Exam passage 2	46–47
Curley's wife	24	Answers	
Crooks	25	Selected answers	48
Minor characters	26		



The whole story

FOCUS

- To revise the order of events in the story.

1. Read this selection of the main events from *Of Mice and Men*.

a. Candy's dog is shot by Carlson.

b. Lennie accidentally kills the puppy given to him by Slim.

c. George and Lennie leave Weed after Lennie is accused (wrongly) of assaulting a local girl.

d. Lennie and George start jobs on the ranch.

e. Lennie runs off and hides in the brush by the river, waiting for George.

f. Slim gives Lennie a puppy from his own dog's litter.

g. Lennie crushes Curley's hand in a fight.

h. George shoots Lennie to stop him being locked up, or being lynched by Curley.

i. Lennie kills Curley's wife after she talks to him in the barn.

j. The boss' son, Curley, takes a dislike to Lennie and George and is distrustful of his young wife.



2. On your own, arrange these events in the correct order.

3. Compare your list with a friend's and agree the order.

4. Once you are sure the order is correct, take it in turns to tell each other the story, filling in other details where appropriate – without using the list if possible – until you have memorised it as well as you can.

George

FOCUS

- To write a detailed character study of George.

1. Record your ideas about George under the following headings.

Your impression of him



Key quotations that describe him (said by him, the writer or other characters)

His involvement in the story: what he does and what happens to him

2. Now, using your notes, write about George's character and his importance to the story, using quotations and referring closely to his part in the events that occur.

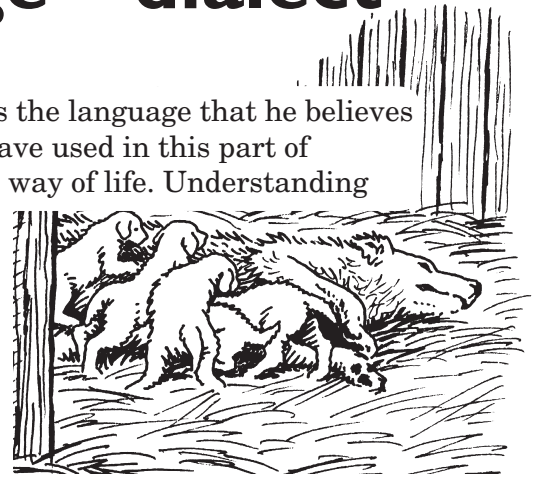
Steinbeck's language – dialect

FOCUS

- To identify the speakers of key quotations and rewrite them in standard English.

Introduction

John Steinbeck uses the language that he believes real people would have used in this part of America, living this way of life. Understanding what they are saying is important to understanding their behaviour.



- The following quotations are taken from conversations in Chapter 3. Identify who is speaking in each case and rewrite each in standard English.

1. Speaker: _____

“I ain’t done nothing, George. Slim says I better not pet them pups so much for a while. Slim says it ain’t good for them; so I come right in. I been good, George.”

Your version: _____

2. Speaker: _____

“She’s gonna make a mess. They’s gonna be a bad mess. She’s a jail-bait all set on a trigger.”

Your version: _____

3. Speaker: _____

“Hardly none of the guys ever travel together. I hardly never seen two guys travel together. You know how the hands are, they just come in and get their bunk and work a month, and then they quit and go out alone.”

Your version: _____

4. Speaker: _____

“I ought to of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn’t ought to of let no stranger shoot my dog.”

Your version: _____

5. Speaker: _____

“You tried to throw a scare into Slim, ’an you couldn’t make it stick. Slim threw a scare into you. You’re yella as a frog belly ...”

Your version: _____

