Of Mice and Men
John Steinbeck

A Before Reading

1 Students’ own answers, but suggestions given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work they had to do</th>
<th>hard farm work, harvesting crops (eg barley), using agricultural equipment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living conditions and lifestyle</td>
<td>not very comfortable, communal living and sleeping areas shared with other workers, outdoor lifestyle, long working hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>low pay, eg $50 a week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relationship with bosses</td>
<td>workers had to obey orders, they had little freedom, workers wanted to own their own land but could not</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free time activities</td>
<td>limited free time, but typical activities included games (cards, horseshoes), drinking alcohol and visiting brothels</td>
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2

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H O W A H S A N B E P T N U R O I G E
E R S I E S I U R B
J A K U B E H A U M
T W Q P A U S J E C
E O N P I S T O L P
D C L Y E P A R G E
O X A C H V B A R N
A U A M D Z L P B L
Y W H A R V E S T G
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Another word for a gun is: a **pistol**
Two buildings found on farms, where animals may live: a **barn**, a **stable**
To gather crops (eg corn, barley) when they are ready: to **harvest**
To attack and force someone to have sexual intercourse: to **rape**
Causing pain or unhappiness to people or animals (adjective): **cruel**
A dark mark on skin where it has been hit: a **bruise**
A young/baby dog: a **puppy**
Someone who is not brave enough to do what they should do: a **coward**
To die in water: to **drown**

3 Students’ own answers.
B While Reading

4 Students’ own answers. Some possibilities include:

- **Lennie**: childlike, optimistic, gentle, hard-working, strong, a dreamer, an animal lover, a killer, a criminal
- **Lonely, pessimistic, bitter, attractive, a dreamer, a flirt, ambitious, an outsider**

- **Intelligent, hard-working, strong, a dreamer, a killer, lonely, a criminal**
- **Lonely, gentle, old, a dreamer, weak, an animal lover**

- **Bitter, cowardly, aggressive, weak, a bully, a criminal**
- **Lonely, pessimistic, bitter, an outsider**

5 Students’ own answers.

6 a Answers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Their dream(s)</th>
<th>Does it come true?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lennie and George</td>
<td>Their own ranch and land with a windmill, an orchard, fields for alfalfa, pigs</td>
<td>No, George admits it was an impossible dream. However, Lennie dies with his</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and chickens, smoked salmon from the river, ripe fruit and fresh milk and</td>
<td>dream still alive.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>cream. A home to sleep in, no more than 7 hours work a day, they’d see the</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>results of their work.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Candy</td>
<td>Joining Lennie and George in their dream of their own ranch in return for</td>
<td>No, in the end George tells him it could never happen.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>doing small jobs there. Not to die old and alone like his dog. Having</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>friends.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curley’s wife</td>
<td>Being an actress, starring in films, going to big hotels in Hollywood,</td>
<td>No, she dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wearing lovely clothes, not being lonely, not being married to Curley.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b Students’ own answers.
C After Reading

7 a Most of the characters are lonely in some way or at some point, for example:
   • Candy, because he is old and cannot work properly with the others, and because his dog is shot.
   • Crooks, because as a black man he is not accepted by the others, and has to live alone in the harness room, where the other men do not go.
   • Curley’s wife, because she does not love her husband, who tries to stop her talking to other men, and because she missed her opportunity to go elsewhere and do other things.
   • George, at the end of the story, because he has lost his companion, Lennie, and may be alone in the future.
   (Other answers accepted if justified convincingly.)

   b Students’ own answers. Students may suggest that his life, while now easier, will not be better, because he has lost his friend and companion.

   c Possible answers: writer, lighthouse keeper, artist, lorry driver, etc.

8 a Students’ own answers. Should include some past modal verbs, eg he should(n’t) have...

   b Students’ own answers.

9 Students’ own answers.