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Curley of mice and men

Lennie is a big man. He's mentally handicapped and traveling with George. Lennie behaves like a child, but he respects George and relies on him. Lennie doesn't like getting involved in fights, unless he sees that someone might threaten George. Lennie has been very slow to understand what is going on and can't remember anything for very long. But, with George's tutoring, Lennie is starting to learn better. Lennie likes to pet soft things, such as furry animals or strips of velvet cloth. This leads to his downfall, when Curley's wife offers him to pet her hair. He is attracted to women for their softness; He will not be aware of any attraction he will have for women. He often creates problems. He shared the dream of having a farm with George and growing their own crops and pets and their own bosses. George Milton George is Lennie's only best friend. He is small and fast-white, dark in sight, with restless eyes and sharp, strong features. Every part of him is defined: small, strong hands, slender arms, a thin and leggy nose. A man who keeps to himself, he is slow to trust others, but quick to read them. It doesn't take long for him to see that Curley is having trouble or that Curley's wife is having even more trouble. George seems to be the kind of guy other men quickly like, and this likeness makes it possible for the other ranch hands to accept Lennie. George cherishes dreams of owning his own property and his own boss, but wonders if he believes in his own best-laid plans. He hates seeing his friend in pain, so he shoots Lennie after Lennie kills Curley's wife and runs. His surname Milton refers to the author John Milton who wrote the epic poem Paradise Lost. This shows that his dreams and paradises are lost and his best laid plans will never become reality. Candy Candy, a tall, stoop-shouldered man, is an old swamper who has made a permanent residence on the ranch. He knows that it is only a matter of time before he is dismissed from the ranch because of both his age and his disability; his right hand was cut off in an accident some time earlier. He seeks refuge in the idea of living on the farm George and Lennie plan to buy, even offering to pay more than half the required price. His constant companion is a very old dog he had of a puppy, an almost lame pet whose awful smell the other ranch-hands regularly complain about. Curley The son of the ranch owner, Curley is a thin young man with a brown face, with brown eyes and a head of tightly curled hair. He's a little man Like to pick fights with big men. George's take against Curley is that fighting big men makes Curley feel more macho and controlling. Curley is often looking for his flirtatious wife, and doesn't seem to trust his father's employees around her. The workers necessarily listen to him, but are not shy about their dislike for him, him, seems to feed his need to prove himself. He chooses a fight with Lennie, much to his displeasure. Curley is also a snooty man - he wears leather boots to show his power over the other men on the ranch, and has the hand he holds softly in Vaseline. Curley's Wife Her early dream was to become an actress, whose achievement was thwarted by her mother's objections. She is presented as and remains an unnamed character, and her degraded status personifies the inferior role to which women were degraded in early twentieth century American society. She was raised in a youth environment marked by violence and suspicion, whose influences culminated in her marriage to Curley. She longs for attention, and shows her sexual attractiveness to obtain it. This was all she could identify with, and was probably what attracted Curley, but it was this that intimidated the ranchers and caused them to banish her. While many may believe Curley's wife is a cake one should remember that Curley's wife is probably only 15, 16 or 17 at the oldest. Curley's wife is lonely and does her best to have a boyfriend. She's trying to make company with anyone who's just going to exchange a few words with her. She is so attracted to Lennie because as most young children accept to new friendships so is Lennie. Lennie is not judgmental like all the other ranch workers who base what they think about her by what others tell them. She does a lot of things to get others to look at her. Curley's wife wanted to be in pitchers, which we would call the movies in the modern era. The quotes I get lonely, and you talk to people, but I can't talk to anyone but Curley. Otherwise, he'll get mad. Don't you want to talk to someone? (pg 85) show that her only real goal is to find someone to talk to and befriend. But if she goes too far, it leads to her eventual destruction. Slim Long, Thin and Quiet, Slim is both respected and admired. Everyone is looking for their approval, even Curley; he seems satisfied, reasoning and understanding. He cares and listens to what others have to say. Smart is the kind of man that many men would like to develop into - a natural, charismatic leader. Also toward the beginning when they meet, Clever was able - almost only by being with him - to encourage George to open up about what happened in Weed. Carlson Carlson is presented as a nice enough person in the novel, but lacks concern for other people's feelings in that he doesn't take time to understand them. His only drive is practically - he represents the lack of sentiment among the men of this period. This flaw sentiment means that while his actions may not be outwardly hostile, they still create tension. Carlson's character is meant to be brutally honest, not idealistic. That's why he shot Candy's dog. Crooks Crooks is a lively, sharp-witted, black stable-hand, stable-hand, takes its name from its crooked back. Like most of the characters in the novel, he admits to being extremely lonely. When Lennie visits him in his room, his reaction reveals this fact. At first he turns Lennie away, hoping to prove a point that if he, as a black man, is not allowed in white men's homes, then white men are not allowed in his, but his desire for companionship eventually wins out and he invites Lennie to sit with him. Like Curley's wife, Crooks is an impotent character who turns his vulnerability into a weapon to attack those even weaker. He's playing a cruel game with Lennie, suggesting to him that George is gone for good. Only when Lennie threatens him with physical violence, he admits. Crooks exhibit the corive effects that loneliness can have on a person; its character evokes sympathy when the origin of his cruel behaviour is made clear. Perhaps what Crooks wants it more than anything else is a sense of belonging--to enjoy simple pleasures, such as the right to enter the bunk house or to play cards with the other men. This desire would explain why, even though he has reason to doubt George and Lennie's talk about the farm they want to own, Crooks can't help but ask if there might be room for him to come along and hoe in the garden. Mice and humans are diverting here. For the unrelated 1916 film, see Mice and People (film). For other applications, see Of Mice and Humans (disambiguation). Novella by John Steinbeck Of Mice and Men First edition coverAuthorJohn SteinbeckCover artistRoss MacDonaldCountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishPublisherCovici FriedePublication date1937Pages107 Of Mice and Men is a novella written by John Steinbeck. [1] [2] Published in 1937, it recounts the experiences of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced migrant farm workers, who move from place to place in California in search of new job opportunities during the Great Depression in the United States. Steinbeck based the novella on his own experiences in the 1910s alongside migrant farm workers as a teenager (before the arrival of the Okies he would describe in The Grapes of Wrath). The title is taken from Robert Burns' poem To a Mouse, which reads: 'The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft agley. (The best laid schedules of mice and men / Go wrong often.)' While it is a book taught in many schools,[3] Of Mice and People has been a frequent target of censors for vulgarity, and what some consider offensive and racist language; Consequently, it appears on the American Library Association's list of the most challenged books of the 21st century. [4] Plot Two migrant field workers in California on their way during the Great Depression-George Milton, an intelligent but uneducated man, and Lennie Small, a sizable, strong man, but mentally handicapped-are in Soledad on their way to another part of California. They hope to one day achieve the dream settle on their own piece of land. Lennie's part of the dream is just to tend and pet rabbits on the farm, as he loves touching soft animals, although he always accidentally kills them. This dream is one of Lennie's favorite stories, which George tells all the time. They had fled from Weed after Lennie grabbed a young woman's skirt and wouldn't let go, leading to an accusation of rape. It soon becomes clear that the two are close and George is Lennie's protector, despite his antics. After being hired on a farm, the pair are confronted by Curley, the boss's small, aggressive son with a Napoleon complex who hates bigger men. Curley's targeting Lennie. Curley's flirtatious and provocative wife, to whom Lennie is immediately attracted, is also a problem. In contrast, the couple also meets Candy, an elderly ranch handyman with one hand and a loyal dog, and Slim, an intelligent and gentle jerkline-skinner whose dog has recently had a litter of puppies. Slim gives a puppy to Lennie and Candy, whose trusty, accomplished sheepdog was put down by fellow ranch-hand Carlson. Despite problems, their dream jumps toward reality when Candy offers to pitch in \$350 with George and Lennie, allowing them to buy a farm at the end of the month, in exchange for permission to live with them. The trio are ecstatic, but their joy is overshadowed when Curley attacks Lennie, who defends by easily crushing Curley's fist as he is urged on by George. Nevertheless, George feels more relaxed, to the extent that he even leaves Lennie behind on the ranch while he goes into town with the other ranch hands. Lennie wanders into the stable, and chats with Crooks, the bitter but educated stable buck who is isolated from the other workers due to black. Candy finds them and they discuss their plans for the farm with Crooks, who can't resist asking them if he can hoe a garden patch on the farm albeit disdaining the possibility. Curley's wife makes a different appearance and flirts with the men, especially Lennie. However, her hateful side is shown when she belchs them and threatens to have Crooks lynched. The next day, Lennie accidentally kills his puppy while stroking it. Curley's wife enters the barn and tries to speak to Lennie, admitting that she is lonely and how her dreams of becoming a movie star are crushed, revealing her personality. After finding out about Lennie's habit, she offers to let him stroke her hair, but panics and starts screaming when she feels his strength. Lennie gets scared, then inadvertently breaks her neck and walks away. When the Ranch hands find the corpse, George realizes that their dream is over. George rushes to find Lennie, hoping he'll be at the meeting place they're dragging in case he gets into trouble. George met Lennie at their campsite spot before they came to the ranch. The two sit and George tells the beloved story of the dream, knowing that it's something they'll never share. He kills Lennie by shooting him because he sees it as an action for Lennie's sake. Curley, Slim and Carlson arrive seconds later. Only Slim realizes what happened, and comfortingly leads him away. Curley and Carlson watch, unable to understand the subdued mood of the two men. Characters George Milton: A fast man who is Lennie's guardian and best friend. His friendship with Lennie helps to support his dream of a better future. He was bound in teasing Lennie since he was young (further necessary explanation). He is described by Steinbeck in the novel as small and fast, every part of him is defined, with small strong hands on slender arms. He has a dark face and restless eyes and sharp, strong features including a thin, legged nose. Lennie Small: An intellectually disabled but gigantic and physically strong man who travels with George and is his constant companion. [5] He dreams of living the fatta' the lan' and the ability to tend to rabbits. His love of soft things is against him, especially since he doesn't know his own power, and eventually becomes his downfall. Steinbeck defines his appearance as George's opposite, writing that he is a huge man, shapeless in sight, with big, pale eyes and wide, sloping shoulders. Lennie runs heavy, dragging his feet a little, the way a bear drags his paws, adding that his arms don't swing at his sides, but hang loosely. Candy: An aging ranch handyman, Candy lost his hand in an accident and worries about his future at the ranch. Fearing that his age will render him useless, he seizes on George's description of the farm he and Lennie will have, offering his savings if he can join George and Lennie in owning the land. Smart: A jerkline skinner, the main driver of a mule team and the prince of the ranch. Slim is highly respected by many of the characters and is the only character that Curley treats with respect. His insight, intuition, kindness and natural authority automatically draw the other ranch hands to him, and he is considerably the only character to fully understand the bond between George and Lennie. Curley: The boss' son, a young, pugnacious character, once a semi-professional boxer. He is described by others, with some irony, as useful, partly because he likes to keep a glove filled with Vaseline on his left hand. He is very jealous and protective of his wife and immediately develops an aversion to Lennie. At one point, Curley loses his temper after he Lennie seems to laugh at him, and ends up with his hand horribly damaged after Lennie fights back against him. Curley's wife: A young, beautiful woman, who is distrusted by her husband. The other characters refer to her only as Curley's wife. Steinbeck explained that she is not a person, is, a symbol. She has no function except to be a foil – and a danger to Lennie. [5] Curley's wife's preoccupation with her own beauty finally helps precipitate her death: She allows Lennie to stroke her as a seemingly innocent indulgence, only for her to upset Lennie as she yells at him to stop him from 'musing'. Lennie tries to stop her from screaming and eventually, and accidentally, kills her by breaking her neck. Crooks: Crooks, the black stable-hand, gets his name from his crooked back. Proud, bitter and cynical, he is isolated from the other men because of the color of his skin. Despite himself, Crooks is fond of Lennie, and although he claims to have seen countless men after empty dreams of buying their own land, he asks Lennie if he can go with them and hoe in the garden. Candy's dog: A blind dog who is described as old, smelly, and crippled, and is killed by Carlson. Carlson: A thick bodied ranch hand, he kills Candy's dog with little sympathy. Curley's father, the ranch's superintendent. The ranch is owned by a large land company according to Candy. Whit: A young ranch hand. Themes In every piece of honest writing in the world, there is a basic theme. Try to understand each other, if you understand each other, you will be nice to each other. Knowing a man well never leads to hate and almost always leads to love. There are shorter resources, many of them. There is writing promoting social change, writing punishing injustice, writing in celebration of heroism, but always that basic theme. Try to understand each other.— John Steinbeck in his 1938 diary entry[6] Steinbeck emphasizes dreams through the book. [clarification needed] George strives for independence, to be his own boss, to have a homestead, and, most importantly, to be someone. Lennie strives to work with George on his independent homestead, and to put out his fixation on soft objects. Candy strives to confirm his responsibility lost with the death of his dog, and for the safety of his old-age on George's farm. Crooks strives for a small farm where he can express self-respect, safety and above all acceptance. Curley's wife dreams of becoming an actress, to satisfy her desire for fame lost when she married Curley, and an end to her loneliness. Loneliness is an important factor in the lives of different characters. Candy is lonely after his dog is gone. Curley's wife is lonely because her husband is not the friend she hoped for - she deals with her loneliness by flirting with the men on the ranch, which increases Curley's abuse and jealousy. The company of George and Lennie is the result of loneliness. Crooks the theme candidly as A guy gets crazy when he has no one. Don't make a difference who the man is, he'll be with you for a long time. [7] The author further reinforces this theme by situating the story the city of Soledad, which means solitude in Spanish. [8] Despite the need for companionship, Steinbeck emphasizes how loneliness is supported by the barriers that are set of inhumane action for each other. The loneliness of Curley's wife is confirmed by George's jealousy, allowing all ranch hands to avoid her. The barrier of the crooks resulting from being barred from the pile house by limiting him to the stable; his bitterness is partially broken, however, by Lennie's ignorance. Steinbeck's characters are often powerless because of intellectual, economic and social circumstances. Lennie possesses the greatest physical force of each character, which should establish therefore a feeling of respect as he is used as a farm hand. However, his intellectual disability undermines this and results in his powerlessness. Economic powerlessness is established as many of the ranch hands are victims of the Great Depression. If George, Candy and Crooks are positive, action-oriented characters, they want to buy a homestead, but due to the depression, they are unable to generate enough money. Lennie is the only one who is basically unable to take care of himself, but the other characters would do so in the improved conditions they seek. Because they can't, the real danger of Lennie's mental disability comes to the fore. With regard to human interaction, evil of oppression and abuse is a theme illustrated by Curley and Curley's wife. Curley uses his aggressive character and superior position in an attempt to take control of his father's farm. He constantly rebukes the farm hands and accuses some of fooling around with his wife. Curley's Napoleon complex emerges from his threat to farm hands for minuscule incidents. Curley's wife, on the other hand, is not physical but verbally manipulative. She uses her sex appeal to get some attention, flirting with farm hands. According to the Penguin Teacher's Guide for Mice and Men, Curley and Curley's wife represent evil in that both oppress and abuse the migrants in different ways. [9] Fate is most heavily felt as the characters' aspirations are destroyed when George Lennie (who is a real danger) cannot protect. Steinbeck presents this as something that has happened or if his friend conceived for him non-teleological thinking or is thinking, which postulates a non-judgmental point of view. [6] The development of Mice and Humans was Steinbeck's first attempt to write in the form of novel-play called a play-novellette by one critic. Structured into three acts of two chapters each, it is intended to be both a novella and script for a play. It's only 30,000 words long. Steinbeck wanted to write a novel that could be played out of his rules, or a play that could be read as a novel. [10] Steinbeck originally titled the Something That Happened (referring to the events of book as something that happened because no one can really be accused of the tragedy that unfolds in the story). However, he changed the title after reading Robert Burns's poem To a Mouse. [11] Burns's poem tells of the remorse that the narrator feels for having destroyed the house of a mouse while plowing his field. [12] Steinbeck wrote this book and The Grapes of Wrath in what is now Monte Sereno, California. An early design of Of Mice and Humans was eaten by Steinbeck's dog, called Max. [13] Receiving the greatest positive response of any of his works until that time, Steinbeck's novella was chosen as a Book Club selection of the Month before it was published. Praise for the work came from many notable critics, including Maxine Garrard (Enquirer-Sun).[14] Christopher Morley, and Harry Thornton Moore (New Republic). [15] New York Times critic Ralph Thompson described the novella as a grand title book, for all its ultimate melodrama. [16] [17] Novella is banned from various US public and school libraries or curricula for allegedly promoting euthanasia, condoning racial slurs, being anti-business, containing profanity, and generally containing vulgar and offensive language. [18] Many of the bans and restrictions have been lifted and it remains required reading in many other American, Australian, Irish, British, New Zealand and Canadian high schools. Due to being a frequent target of censors, Of Mice and Men appears on the American Library Association's list of the most challenged books of the 21st century (number 4). [19] In the UK, it was listed at number 52 of the nation's most beloved novels on the BBC's 2003 survey The Big Read. [20] Mice and Humans has been challenged (suggested for censorship) 54 times since it was published in 1936. [21] However, scholars including Thomas Scarseth have fought to protect the book by debating its literary value. According to Scarseth in true great literature, the pain of life has been transformed into the beauty of art. [22] Adaptations See also: Of Mice and Humans in popular culture Stage most important articles: Of Mice and Humans (play) and Of Mice and Men (opera) The first stage production was written by Steinbeck, produced by Sam H. Harris and directed by George S. Kaufman. It opened on November 23, 1937 at the Music Box Theatre on Broadway. [23] Running for 207 performances, it starred Wallace Ford as George and Broderick Crawford as Lennie. [23] The role of Crooks was performed by Leigh Whipper, the first African-American member of the Actors' Equity Association. [24] Whipper repeated this role in the 1939 film version. [25] production was voted best Play in 1938 by the New York Drama Critics Circle. [26] In 1939, production was moved to Los Angeles, still with Wallace Ford in the role of George, but with Lon Chaney, Jr., taking on the role of Lennie. Chaney's performance in the role resulted in his in the movie. In 1958, a musical theater adaptation of Ira Bilowitz (1925-2016) was produced off-Broadway in New York City. The cast included a number of in-demand performers of their day, including Art Lund and Jo Sullivan, reunited after performing together in the hit musical The Most Happy Fella, as well as Leo Penn. [27] However, a newspaper strike negatively affected production and it closed after six weeks. [28] A revival of the work was mounted on the Western Stage in Salinas in 2019. [28] The play was revived in a 1974 Broadway production at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre starring Kevin Conway as George and James Earl Jones as Lennie. [29] Noted stage actress Pamela Blair played Curley's Wife in this production. In 1970, Carlisle Floyd wrote an opera based on this novella. A departure between Steinbeck's book and Floyd's opera is that the opera features The Ballad Singer, a character not featured in the book. [30] A new version of the play opened on Broadway at The Longacre Theater on March 19, 2014 for a limited 18-week engagement, starring James Franco, Chris O'Dowd, Leighton Meester and Jim Norton. [31] [32] Film Poster for the 1939 filmThe first film adaptation was released in 1939, two years after the publication of the novella, and starred Lon Chaney Jr. as Lennie, with Burgess Meredith as George, and was directed by Lewis Milestone. [25] It was nominated for four Academy Awards. [25] A TV version, produced by David Susskind in 1968, starred George Segal as George, Nicol Williamson as Lennie, Will Geer as Candy, Moses Gunn as Crooks, and Don Gordon and Joey Heatherton as Curley and his wife, respectively. [33] An Iranian film of 1972, Topoli, directed by Reza Mirlohi was adapted from and dedicated to John Steinbeck and his story. [quote needed] In 1981, a TV movie version was released, starring Randy Quaid as Lennie, and Robert Blake as George, and directed by Reza Badiyi. [34] Another theatrical film version was made in 1992, directed by Gary Sinise, who was nominated for palme d'Or at Cannes. [35] Sinise also played George in the film, and the role of Lennie was played by John Malkovich. For this adaptation, both men reprised their roles from the 1980 Steppenwolf Theatre Company production. [36] The 1992 Malayalam film Soonya Manasam directed by Viji Thampi is also based on the novel. [37] Radio Of Mice and Men was adapted by Donna Franceschild as a radio play directed by Kirsty Williams starring David Tennant and Liam Brennan broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on 7 March 2010. [38] References Notes ^ Of Mice and Men Summary, Oxford's GCSE Revision. Retrieved 2018-10-10. ^ Who, What, Why: Why Are Children Studying Mice and Humans? on BBC ^ Stephen Maunder (25 March 2010). 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