

George

A travelling farm worker, friend and protector of Lennie. He is small, but intelligent and quick-witted.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 1	p 19	'The first man ... sharp, strong features.'	Describes. Sounds sharp/quick-witted. Note language.
Ch 1	p 21	'So you forgot that ... a crazy bastard!'	Impatient. Bullies Lennie. Language style aggressive.
Ch 1	p 24	'God, you're a lot of trouble ... maybe have a girl.'	Regrets his promise sometimes. Sees how life could be alone. Emotive.
Ch 1	p 31–2	'Guys like us ... They don't belong no place.' 'With us it ain't like that ... that gives a damn about us.'	Compares their relationship to other lonely souls. Makes them different. Their dream. Lyrical, song-like language.
Ch 2	p 44	'He's my ... cousin.'	Sticks up for Lennie. Lies for him, even if mad.
Ch 2	p 45	'You was pokin' ... nose.'	Defensive/protective.
Ch 2	p 52	'Hide till I come for you ... Say that over.'	Protective. Clever. Senses danger.
Ch 3	p 87–8	'George said reverently ... I bet we could swing her.'	Starts to believe dream will come true – Candy's money. Hopeful tone.
Ch 5	p 130	'Oh Jesus Christ ... and his eyes were hard and tight as wood, and his eyes were hard.'	His reaction. Dream over. Shuts off feelings. Note use of imagery (simile) to express.
Ch 6	p 147	'No ... I want ya to know.'	Last kind words.
Ch 6	p 147–8	'And George ... and then he threw it from him.'	Kills Lennie. Has to push himself. Thinks it's for best.

Own key quotations:

Lennie

A huge child-like man who travels with George. He is incapable of looking after himself, is extremely strong and is fascinated by small things like mice and puppies.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 1	p 19	'Behind him walked ... a bear drags its paws.'	Describes. Stress on animal-like.
Ch 1	p 20–1	'Lennie, who had been ... imitated George exactly.'	Copies George. Looks up to him. Father figure.
Ch 1	p 24	'Lennie droned ... I ain't gonna say nothin'.'	Has to be told like a child. Can't remember. Style.
Ch 1	p 31	'Go on, George ... rabbits.'	Lennie's simple dream
Ch 2	p 43	'Lennie smiled ... Strong as a bull.'	Forgetful/childlike. Language matches.
Ch 3	p 91	'Curley's fist ... Lennie's big hand.'	Fights back. Shows strength. Won't let go – hint for later (C's wife).
Ch 4	p 101	'It ain't no lie. We're gonna do it. Gonna get a little place an' live on the fatta the lan'.'	Lennie's dream. Key phrase.
Ch 4	p 104	'Who hurt George? ... Lennie growled back to his seat ...'	Basic reaction; animal imagery. Reacts to Crooks' teasing.
Ch 5	p 120	'Lennie sat in the barn and looked at the little dead puppy ...'	Foreshadowing. Symbolic. Uncontrolled power.
Ch 5	p 121	'Lennie began to cry ... tend no rabbits.'	He panics. Doesn't know own strength.
Ch 6	p 140	'Suddenly Lennie ... as a creeping bear moves.'	Animal imagery; naturalistic surroundings. Mood matches.
Ch 6	p 141–3	Aunt Clara vision/giant rabbit	Symbolism – but what does it represent? State of mind? His past? Flashback narration?
Ch 6	p 141	'George gonna give me hell ... botherin' him'	Aware that G. will be angry. Like a child.
Ch 6	p 147	'No Lennie ... Lennie obeyed him.'	Trusts him. Doesn't know.

Own key quotations:

Crooks

Looks after the horses (the 'stable buck'). A victim of prejudice, Crooks is the only black worker on the ranch, a proud and lonely man who seeks respect through his learning.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 2	p 41	'The boss gives him hell when he's mad.'	Victim.
Ch 2	p 41	Fight at Xmas	Seen as lower/entertainment.
Ch 3	p 77	'The door opened quietly ... a lean negro head, lined with pain, the eye patient.'	Description/action reveals personality.
Ch 4 all		Focal chapter	Investigate text! pp 98–116
Ch 4	p 98	'... and being a stable buck and a cripple ... more possessions than he could carry on his back.'	Different outlook on life of itinerant ranch hands; tied to one place. Dependent? Vulnerable?
Ch 4	p 98–99	'Crooks possessed ... above his bed.'	Crooks' things = his beliefs/attitude. Symbolic.
Ch 4	p 99	'He kept his distance and demanded other people kept theirs.'	Proud; aloof. Metaphor.
Ch 4	p 99–100	'Crooks said sharply ... any right in here but me.'	Proud and protective. Keeps himself to himself.
Ch 4	p 100	'... I got a right to have a light' 'I ain't wanted in the bunkhouse, and you ain't wanted in my room.'	Sensitive to prejudice; feels able to act superior to Lennie.
Ch 4	p 102	Story about his background: used to be more prosperous. Link to dream?	Wasn't always in this position: now sees himself as 'just a nigger talkin', an a busted back nigger. So it don't mean nothing, see?'
Ch 4	p 103	'S'pose George don't come back no more.' 'Crooks' face lighted with pleasure at the torture.'	Torments Lennie. Cf to his own treatment? What does it say about him?
Ch 4	p 105	'A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody ... a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick.'	Isolation – emotions.
Ch 4	p 105	'If some other guy was ... it would be alright.'	Crooks' dream – a friend. (Like G and L.)
Ch 4	p 105–6	'The stable buck went on dreamily ...' (paragraph)	Crooks' idyllic dream ranch cf Ch 1/3 G and L. Use of flashback narration to his happier past.
Ch 4	p 106	'Nobody gets to heaven, and nobody never gets no land.'	Cynical. Note comparison of heaven and land: American dream.
Ch 4	p 107	'Come on in ... difficult for Crooks to conceal his pleasure with anger.'	Enjoys company. Tone of voice changes.

Crooks*continued*

Ch 4	p 109	'If you ... guys ... work like a son-of-a-bitch if I want to.'	Buys into their dream.
Ch 4	p 113	'I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain't funny.'	Curley's wife uses society's prejudice to put Crooks down.
Ch 4	p 113	'Crooks had reduced himself to nothing.'	Metaphor to express emotion: harsh reality.
Ch 4	p 116	'Member what I said ... Jus' foolin'	Wants their dream – but backs off. Loner.

Own key quotations (Crooks):

Curley's wife

A pretty, lonely woman who dreams of being a film star. We never learn her name.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 2	p 49–50	'Well, I ... A tart.'	Candy has a low opinion of her flirting.
Ch 2	p 53	'A girl was standing ... nasal, brittle quality.'	Full description. Clothes/voice match her personality. Artificial.
Ch 2	p 54	'Don't you even ... leave her be.'	George sees her as a threat (jail bait).
Ch 3	p 78	'Been any trouble ... here.' 'She's gonna make a mess ... trigger.'	Foreshadowing by George. Opinion on women as temptation/trouble.
Ch 4	p 110	'They left all the weak ones here ...'	Cruel portrayal. Is she included?
Ch 4	p 110 p 114	'Sure I got a husban'. ... Swell guy, ain't he?' 'I'm glad you bust Curley up ... I'd like to bust him myself.'	Disillusioned with marriage; no one to confide in; bitter. Uses sarcasm.
Ch 4	p 111	'You bindle bums ... he could put me in pitchers.'	Her dream = film star. Name calls. Childish behaviour.
Ch 4	p 111	'I tell you ... Maybe I will yet.'	All = her dreams/hopes when younger. Bitter now.
Ch 4	p 113	'Well you keep your place ... it ain't even funny.'	Threatens Crooks. Knows power. Fits image. What's Steinbeck doing?
Ch 5	p 122–3	'I get so lonely ... How'd you like not to talk to nobody?'	Isolation.
Ch 5	p 124–5	'I live right in Salinas ... from the rest.'	Flashback narration to provide an insight into previous life of Crooks Ch 4. Provoking empathy by Steinbeck?
Ch 5	p 128–9	Description of death	Powerful graphic language.
Ch 5	p 128	'And she continued ... her body flopped like a fish.'	Ends as a victim. Describes her terror. Powerless – like on ranch.
Ch 5	p 129	'And the meanness ... her lips were parted.'	Cf description Ch 2. Natural description sharp contrast. Why? Discuss language.

Own key quotations:

Candy

An elderly man who has lost one hand in an accident on the ranch. He looks after the bunkhouse. A fount of knowledge about people there.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 2	p 38	'The door opened ... in his left hand.'	Describes him and job.
Ch 2	p 41–2	'The old swamper ... out of the door.'	Scared of Boss. Likes a quiet life.
Ch 2	p 45	'I didn't hear nothing ... nor he don't ast no questions.'	Uneasy. Willing to please. A loner.
Ch 3	p 72	'Candy looked for help from face to face.'	Alone. Symbolic.
Ch 3	p 74	'At last ... and stared at the ceiling.'	Very upset about dog but no power. Accepts. Symbolism of death.
Ch 3	pp 87–89 –shared dream L/G/Ca	'S'pose ... How'd that be?' 'Candy interrupted ... right now.'	His dream – to join in. Prepared to pay. Scared to end like his dog/alone.
Ch 4	p 108–9	'Candy cried, 'Sure they all want it ... He stopped overwhelmed with his picture.'	Outlines his dream to Crooks; overcome with the dream.
Ch 4	p 111	'But a change came over old Candy ... You ain't wanted here.'	New sense of fraternity makes him bold with Curley's wife. Note emotive language.
Ch 4	p 114	'No ... listen to us.'	Passive/powerless
Ch 5	p 131	'What we gonna do now, George?'	Passive: looks for guidance – a follower. Use of questions to show.
Ch 5	p 131	'Now Candy spoke his greatest fear ... He knew.'	End of his dream. Blames C's wife p 132 'You lousy tart/you god-damn tramp.'

Own key quotations:

Curley

The Boss's son: a small, angry ex-boxer who is always ready to pick a fight. He has been married a fortnight.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 2	p 46	'He glanced coldly ... calculating and pugnacious.'	Aggressive on meeting people. Keen to make impression.
Ch 2	p 47	'Curley lashed ... getting into it for?'	Aggressive.
Ch 2	p 51	'Curley's like a lot of little guys ... he ain't a big guy.'	Curley = a fighter. A threat to Lennie. Builds tension.
Ch 3	p 80	'Curley burst into the room ... seen my wife?' he demanded.	Insecure about wife and status. Challenging language.
Ch 3	p 81	'Where the hell's Slim?'	Threatened by Slim.
Ch 3	p 90	'Curley glared ... show ya who's yella.'	Attacks Lennie. Coward. Scared of Slim/Carlson (p 87–90).
Ch 3	p 92	'Curley was white ... his fist lost in Lennie's paw.'	Weak; Lennie described as an animal (image).
Ch 3	p 93	'I won't tell ... Lennie.'	Humiliated.
Ch 5	p 133 p 134	'Curley came suddenly to life ...' 'Shoot for his guts.'	Violent reaction matches violent language.

Own key quotations:

Slim

The antithesis of Curley, Slim is a tall, thoughtful man- a natural leader. An expert worker who everyone looks up to.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 2	p 55–6	'A tall man ... a temple dancer.'	Full description of personality. 'Prince of the ranch'. Lyrical description.
Ch 2	p 57	'You guys ... confidence without demanding it.'	Good listener. Non-judgemental.
Ch 2	p 57	'Ain't many guys ... scared of each other.'	Comment on friendship. Accepts GandL.
Ch 3	p 64	'Maybe he ain't bright ... worker.'	Judges people on actions.
Ch 3	p 65	'Slim neither encouraged ... receptive.'	Trustworthy. People e.g. George confide in him.
Ch 3	p 66	' ... and saw the calm, Godlike eyes ... him.'	Status. Imagery.
Ch 3	p 74	'Candy looked ... Slim's opinions were law.'	Slim = important. Decides about the dog. Men look up to him.
Ch 3	p 77	'Oh! Hello, Crooks ... matter.'	Treats Crooks differently.
Ch 3	p 89–90	'Well you been askin' me ... what do you expect me to do about it?'	Will defend himself against Curley. Strength.
Ch 3	p 92	'If you don't tell ... an' then will you get the laugh.'	Sorts out situation. Authority over Curley.
Ch 4	p 107	'Guys don't come into a colored guy's room very much. Nobody been here but Slim.'	Slim behaves differently. Lack of prejudice?
Ch 5	p 133	' Then Slim went quietly over to her ... the spell was broken.'	Different reaction. Calm language. Use of metaphor to suggest influence on others.
Ch 5	p 134	'Slim sighed. 'Well I guess we got to get to him.'	Sympathetic. Non-judgemental. Tries to divert Curley.
Ch 6	p 148	'Slim came directly ... very close to him.'	Understands. Protects George. Respects him.

Own key quotations:

The Boss

A small stocky man who owns the ranch. Suspicious and short-tempered but considered a 'good' boss.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 2	p 41	'A little stocky man ... not a labouring man.'	Describes. Shows he's different.
Ch 2	p 43	'I said what stake ... his pay away from him?'	Suspicious of people. Aggressive. A bully.
Ch 2	p 43	'I never seen one guy take so much trouble ... interest is.'	Can't believe in relationship: unusual.

Own key quotation:

--	--	--	--

Carlson

A ranch worker, Carlson is powerfully built and a bully, with little understanding of people's feelings. He owns a Luger pistol.

Chapter	Page	The quotation	What it shows
Ch 2	p 57	'A powerful ... bunkhouse.'	Description
Ch 2	p 57	'He ain't very small ... joke.'	Makes fun of people.
Ch 2	p 58	'Why'n't you get Candy ... raise up.'	Lack of emotion. Pragmatic.
Ch 2	p 59	'Carlson stepped back ... door.'	Respects Slim.
Ch 3	p 70–1/74	'Tell you what ... back of the head.'	Brutal reality.
Ch 3	p 90	'You God damn punk ... I'll kick your God damn head off.'	Brutal. Physically unafraid of Curley. Follows Slim's lead.
Ch 5	p 133	'Carlson said, 'I'll get my Luger.'	Simple reaction; simple straightforward language. Simple sentence.
Ch 6	p 149	'Now what the hell ya suppose is eatin' them two guys?'	Final symbolic comment; lack of empathy/incomprehension. Use of metaphor. Why did Steinbeck choose Carlson's voice to finish?

Own key quotation:

--	--	--	--