**Part 1: Plot Notes**

As we read, keep track of the important events and details that happen in each chapter. You’ll be able to go back and use these notes to write your chapter summary after we complete each chapter.

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| Chapter 1 | * Description of the setting of Ch. 1: pool of water in a small wood off the side of the highway that is in a valley; seems peaceful; area where people come down and swim in pool or light fires by the water’s edge
* George and Lennie come down from the highway to rest for the night, on the way to a new ranch where they’ll be working starting tomorrow
* George is angry - the bus driver dropped them off more than 4 miles away from their destination for no good reason, so they had to walk
* Seems to be reference to trouble that occurred with their last job - they got ran out of town
* George gets mad at Lennie and berates him (presses him) about how much trouble Lennie gives George, and how easy George’s life would be if he didn’t have to look after Lennie. Says he always loses jobs because of Lennie.
* George says he could have a girl or else go blow his money every month like any other guy working on ranches.
* Lennie talks about going off and living in a cave by himself, and George relents and tells Lennie he doesn’t want him to do that.
* Talk about their dream - buy a little place of their own to call home and work for themselves.
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| Chapter 2 | * They arrived at the ranch and get to the bunkhouse
* The bunkhouse is the setting for Chapter 2
* Old man named Candy (the swamper) shows George and Lennie around the bunkhouse and tells them about the people on the ranch
* Lennie forgets George's instructions and talks and George gets nervous
* The boss doubts George and even thinks he wants to take advantage of Lennie, he is suspicious of them.
* Eventually the boss gets reassured after George lies about being Lennie’s cousin and that Lennie had got kicked in the head by a horse when they were younger, and eventually leaves
* We meet the boss’s son, Curley, and there is some tension.
* We find out that Curley recently got married, but his wife is already looking at other guys
* Soon after, Curley’s wife comes in “looking for him” but starts flirting with George and Lennie
* We meet Slim, who is the “prince” of the ranch - the best worker/lead worker
* Carlson says Candy’s dog stinks too much, wants Candy to get rid of him and have Slim give Candy one of the puppies Slim’s dog just had
* Lennie wants one of Slim’s puppies
* Curley and his wife keep looking around for each other.
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| Chapter 3 | * Friday night, bunk house
* Candy’s dog gets killed by Carlson - put to sleep and buried (because it was so old)
* Slim gave Lennie one of the puppies, Lennie tries to bring into the bunkhouse to play around with it.
* Whit (one of the workers) tells George that a bunch of the guys go to old Suzy’s place (a brothel)
* George and Slim talked about what happened in Weed - Lennie touched a woman’s dress, she screamed/yelled, Lennie got scared and so held onto her, George had to sock him on the head with a picket fence to get him to let go, and they ran off. The girl told the police she had been raped and they formed a lynch party to lynch Lennie. They hid in the water of an irrigation ditch all day.
* Candy talked to George and Lennie about the little farm they want to buy; Candy has $350 saved up, and George thinks they can buy it for about $450.
* They spend some time actively daydreaming about it.
* Curley gets mad at Lennie and attacks him. Lennie intercepts one of Curley’s punches and squeezes his hand and breaks all the bones in it.
* Slim tells Curley not to tell the boss (Curley’s dad) or else the rest of the guys will humiliate Curley (since Curley was in the wrong on this)
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| Chapter 4 | * Saturday night, setting is in the barn and Crooks’ shed that he lives in (next to the barn)
* Lennie goes to talk with Crooks
* Escalates quickly - at first, Crooks tells Lennie to leave because, as a black man, Crooks isn’t allowed in the bunkhouse with the rest of the men, so he wants the same rules applied to his living space.
* Lennie reveals the plan he has with George and Candy
* Crooks talks about his loneliness due to his race
* Candy comes in looking for Lennie, and they share the dream with Crooks to the point where Crooks wants to join them.
* Curley’s wife comes in, tries to talk, and the guys won’t talk to her, so she threatens them
* George comes back and tells Lennie and Candy off for being in Crooks’ shed and for sharing the dream with him
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| Chapter 5 | * Lennie is in the barn, he has accidentally killed his puppy
* Curley’s wife comes to talk to him
* Curley’s wife shows Lennie her hair, how it’s soft and nice to touch
* Lennie starts petting her hair roughly, she starts yelling at him
* Lennie covers her mouth and starts shaking her because he panics
* Lennie accidentally snaps her neck on accident, killing her
* He tries to kind of hide her body - partially covers it with hay
* Lennie talks to himself, knows he’s going to get into trouble
* Candy is looking for Lennie and discovers the body
* Candy goes to tell George about it
* Candy and George admit the dream of buying the farm is probably dead
* George leaves the scene of the crime to rejoin the other guys in a few minutes once Candy tells everyone
* When the rest of the guys see what happened, they get ready to go try and catch and kill Lennie
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| Chapter 6 |  |

**Part 2: Characterization**: For each character, try to list Concrete Details and quotes that reveal something meaningful about that character. Explain the quotes in the right margin. These will help when it comes to writing the character analysis essay.

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|  | **George** |
| Page | Concrete Detail (Quote) | Commentary (What does it mean) |
|  | * Small, quick, defined, with restless eyes (restleses eyes indicates he is always looking around, constantly assessing the environment)
* Thin, bony, but also has strong hands
* Dialogue indicates he is not well educated - he uses improper grammar all the time (like double negatives)
* Seems somewhat intelligent despite his lack of education
* George takes the lead between him and Lennie
* George may be anxious to a degree
* Although sometimes he doesn’t want to, George still cares and looks out for Lennie
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|  | **Lennie** |
| Page | Concrete Detail (Quote) | Commentary (What does it mean) |
|  | * Lennie is huge - tall, sloping shoulders, shapeless of face
* Walks heavily, dragging his feet and not swinging his arms
* Seems to have a memory problem
* Intelligence is less developed
* He likes mice, pets them, even keeps a dead mouse in his pocket
* When he was younger, his aunt would give him mice as a little pet but he would always kill them - pinched their heads in after the mice would bite him
* Follower
* He got in trouble feeling up a girl’s dress
* Lennie is really strong (smashes Curley’s hand) but he doesn’t like to fight people.
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|  | **Candy** |
| Page | Concrete Detail (Quote) | Commentary (What does it mean) |
|  | * Old man who cleans out the bunkhouse and washhouse
* He is missing one of his hands
* He has an old dog
* Candy becomes depressed when Carlson goes to kill his dog and bury it
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|  | **Curley** |
| Page | Concrete Detail (Quote) | Commentary (What does it mean) |
|  | * The boss’s son
* He just got married 2 weeks ago
* He’s into boxing and - according to Candy - is pretty “handy”
* Seems to dislike George or Lennie or both
* Curley is described as a “little guy”
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|  | **Curley’s Wife** |
| Page | Concrete Detail (Quote) | Commentary (What does it mean) |
|  | * Described as being young and “purty”
* She was flirting with George when they first met her
* She seems to want everybody’s attention
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|  | **Crookshanks** |
| Page | Concrete Detail (Quote) | Commentary (What does it mean) |
|  | * Likes to read books
* Black
* He’s really good at horseshoes
* Crooks is defensive and constantly on guard because of his race - he is very much aware of the mistreatment, unfairness, and oppression that is purely based on his skin color that he is forced to endure
* Described as being proud, aloof, and keeping a tidy living area
* He has a permanent back injury - he needs to put “linament” on it all the time
* He was born in California, his family had a chicken ranch - there wasn’t another black family for miles around and Crooks’ dad didn’t like him playing with the white kids
* Constantly **lonely** - he is isolated because of his race
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1. **Theme Analysis:** There are four themes that we will be exploring in earnest here regarding the novel. For each thematic subject, any time that you are reading a passage that is about that subject, find a quote that says something truly meaningful or profound about that theme.

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| Loneliness |
| Quote | Explanation (What does it mean) |
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| Society: Social Classes and Roles |
| Quote | Explanation (What does it mean) |
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| Friendship |
| Quote | Explanation (What does it mean) |
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| Hopes and Dreams |
| Quote | Explanation (What does it mean) |
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