

Of Mice and Men Key Quotations

1. *Description of George: "Every part of him was defined: small, strong hands, slender arms, a thin bony nose."*

2. *Description of Lennie: "a huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes, with wide, sloping shoulders; and he walked heavily, dragging his feet a little, the way a bear drags his paws."*

3. *Lennie thinks he has lost his work card and George says to him, "You never had none, you crazy bastard. I got both of 'em here. Think I'd let you carry your own work card?"*

4. *"I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn't have you on my tail. I could live so easy and maybe have a girl." (George)*

5. *"George snapped his fingers sharply, and at the sound Lennie laid the mouse in his hand."*

6. *George gets cross with Lennie and talks about how easy his life could be without him. Lennie gets upset; "He looked across the fire at Lennie's anguished face, and then he looked ashamedly at the flames."*

7. *"Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don't belong to no place. They come to a ranch an' work up a stake and then they go into town and blow their stake, and the first thing you know they're poundin' their tail on some other ranch. They ain't got nothing to look ahead to." (George speaking to Lennie).*

8. *"I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you." (Lennie to George)*

9. *The names were entered in the book. 'Le's see, this is the twentieth, noon the twentieth.' He closed the book.*

'Where you boys been working?'

'Up around Weed,' said George.

'You too?' to Lennie.

'Yeah, him too,' said George.

(George and Lennie meet their new boss at the ranch)

10. *"I never seen one guy take so much trouble for another guy." (Ranch boss to George).*

11. *The old man came slowly into the room. He had his broom in his hand. And at his heels there walked a drag-footed sheep-dog, grey of muzzle, and with pale, blind old eyes. The dog struggled lamely to the side of the room and lay down, grunting softly to himself and licking his grizzled, moth-eaten coat. The swamper watched him until he was settled. (Description of Candy and his dog).*

12. *"Well, he better watch out for Lennie. Lennie ain't no fighter, but Lennie's strong and quick and Lennie don't know rules." (George to Candy about Curley).*

13. *"Don't let him sock me George." (Lennie)*

14. *"Listen to me, you crazy bastard [...] don't you even take a look at that bitch. I don't care what she says and what she does. I seen 'em poison before,*

*but I never seen no piece of jail – bait worse than her. You leave her be.”
(George to Lennie about Curley’s wife).*

15. *“We kinda look after each other [...] he ain’t bright. Hell of a good worker, though. Hell of a nice fella, but he ain’t bright. I’ve knew him for a long time.”
(George on Lennie).*

16. *“That girl rabbits in an’ tells the law she been raped. The guys in Weed start a party out to Lynch Lennie. So we sit in an irrigation ditch under water all the rest of that day.” (George)*

17. *Slim asks George if Lennie had hurt the girl in Weed and George says; “hell, no. He just scared her. I’d be scared too if he grabbed me. But he never hurt her. He jus’ wanted to touch that red dress, like he wants to pet them pups all the time.” (George).*

18. *“He’s jus like a kid.” (George on Lennie)*

19. *“You give me a good whore- house every time [...] a guy can go in an’ get drunk and get ever’thing outa his system at once an’ no messes.” (George)*

20. *Lennie asks George to tell him about their dream again; “Well it’s ten acres, got a little win’ mill. Got a little shack on it , an’ a chicken run. Got a kitchen, orchard, cherries, apples, peaches, ‘cots, nuts, got a few berries. They’s a place for alfalfa and plenty of water to flood it.”*

21. *“We’d jus’ live there. We’d belong there. There wouldn’t be no more runnin’ round the country.” (George)*

22. *When Candy asks about George and Lennie's dream George says: "say-what's it to you? You got nothing to do with us."*

23. *"You seen what they done to my dog tonight? They say he wasn't no good to himself nor nobody else. When they can me here I wish't somebody'd shoot me." (Candy)*

24. *"I ought to of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't ought of let no stranger shoot my dog." (Candy).*

25. *Lennie covered his face with his huge paws and bleated with terror. He cried, "Make 'um stop George." Then Curley attacked his stomach and cut off his wind.*

26. *Crooks, the negro stable buck, had his bunk in the harness room; a little shed that leaned off the wall of the barn.*

27. *This room was swept and fairly neat, for Crooks was a proud, aloof man. He kept his distance and demanded that other people keep theirs.*

28. *"You go on get outa my room. I ain't wanted in the bunkhouse, and you ain't wanted in my room."*

"Why ain't you wanted?" Lennie asked.

"Cause I'm black. They say I stink. Well, I tell you, you all of you stink to me,"

29. *Crooks' face lighted with the pleasure in his torture. "Nobody can't tell a guy what a guy'll do", he observed calmly. "Le's say he wants to come back and*

can't. S' pose he gets killed or hurt and he can't come back." (Crooks speaking to Lennie about George).

30. *"Whatta ya think I am, a kid? I tell you I could of went with shows. Not jus' one neither. An' a guy tol' me he could put me in the pitchers..." (Curley's wife)*

31. *"Listen, Nigger. You know what I can do if you open your trap?" (Curley's wife to Crooks)*

32. *"You keep your place then, Nigger. I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain't even funny." (Curley's wife to Crooks)*

33. *In a second George stood framed in the door, and he looked disapprovingly about. "What you doin' in Crooks; room? You hadn't ought to be here." (George to Lennie)*

34. *(Lennie talking to himself after he accidentally kills the puppy); "But he'll know. George always knows. He'll say 'you done it. Don't try to put nothing over on me.' An' he'll say, 'now jkus' for that you don' get to tend no rabbits!"*

35. *"George says I ain't to have nothing to do with you- talk to you or nothing." (Lennie to Curley's wife)*

36. *Lennie gets upset about the dead puppy whilst with Curley's wife; She consoled him. 'don't you worry none. He was jus' a mutt. You can get another one easy. The whole country is fulla mutts.'*

37. *"You're a nice guy. I don't know why I can't talk to you. I ain't doin' no harm to you." (Curley's wife).*

38. *"I coulda made somethin' of myself. Maybe I will yet." (Curley's wife).*

39. *' "I ain't told this to nobody before. Maybe I oughtn' to. I don' like Curley. He ain't a nice fella [...] coulda been in the movies, an had nice clothes- all them nice clothes they werar. An' I coulda sat in them big hotels, an' had pitchers took of me. When they had them previews I coulda went to went to them, an' spoke in the radio, an' it wouldn' cost me a cent because I was in the pitcher. An' all them nice clothes they wear. Because this guys says I was a natural."(Curley's Wife)*

40. *"I think you're nuts" (Curley's wife to Lennie)*

41. *Lennie was in a panic. His face was contorted. She screamed then, and Lennie's other hand closed over her mouth and nose. 'Please don't' he begged. 'Oh please don't do that. George'll be mad. She struggled violently under his hands. Her feet battered on the hay as she writhed to be free.*

42. *Her body flopped like a fish. And then she was still, for Lennie had broken her neck.*

43. *"He's nuts, Slim. He never done this to be mean." (George)*

44. *"I'll come. But listen, Curley. The poor bastard's nuts. Don't shoot 'im. He di' nt know what he was doin." (George)*

45. Suddenly Lennie appeared out of the brush, and he came as silently as a creeping bear moves. The heron pounded the air with its wings, jacked itself clear of the water and flew off down- river. The little snake slid in among the reeds at the pool's side. Lennie came quietly to the pool's edge. He knelt down and drank, barely touching his lips to the water.

46. From out of Lennie's head there came a gigantic rabbit. It sat on its haunches in front of him, and it wagged its ears and crinkled its nose at him. And it spoke in Lennie's voice, too.

47. "No Lennie. I ain't mad. I never been mad an' I ain't now. That's a thing I want ya to know." The voices came closer now. George raised the gun and listened to the voices.

48. "You hadda, George. I swear you hadda. Come with me." (Slim)