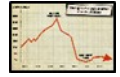


## Independent Revision

Name:

# Homework One—Consolidating Understanding of Context



Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Great Depression

On October 29 1929, millions of dollars were wiped out in an event that became known as the Wall Street Crash. It led to the Depression in America which crippled the country from 1930 - 1936. People lost their life savings when firms and banks went bust, and 12 - 15 million men and women - one third of America's population - were unemployed.

There was then no dole to fall back on, so food was short and the unemployed in cities couldn't pay their rent. Some ended up in settlements called 'Hoovervilles' (after the US president of the time, Herbert C Hoover), in shanties made from old packing cases and corrugated iron.

1. What happened on the 29th October 1929?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How long did the Depression last in America?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which word in the information text above tells you that the Depression severely damaged America?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. One quarter of America's population were unemployed. True or False?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think Hoovervilles had shacks made from old packing cases and corrugated iron?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Independent Research:** Add THREE additional pieces of information to these notes about the Great Depression. You can use BBC Bitesize, Cliffnotes.com, Shmoop.com. There are also Youtube videos online. Reference books can be found in the library, or ask the History department.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Homework Two—Consolidating Understanding of Context



Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

RECAP: Use the following words to write THREE sentences about the Great Depression: **POVERTY**  
**UNEMPLOYED** **MILLIONS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Dust Bowl** – To further compound the effects of the Great Depression, in the 1930s America received a number of severe dust storms, which greatly damaged the ecology and agriculture across much of the country. Kansas , Oklahoma and Texas were particularly badly affected. The only state that remained relatively unaffected was California on the west coast, which soon became known as ‘Golden California.’ Workers from all over the country descended upon the state in order to work for little pay as farm-hands. As men would often travel to do this alone, it was as an extremely solitary existence.

1. Name ONE state badly affected by the severe dust storms.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did California become known as the Golden State?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which word in the information above has a similar meaning to lonely?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Independent Research:** Add THREE additional pieces of information to these notes about the Great Depression.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Homework Three — Part One: The Importance of Setting

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

A few miles south of (1), the (2) River drops in close to the hillside bank and runs deep and green. The water is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the yellow sands in the sunlight before reaching the narrow pool. On one side of the river the golden foothill slopes curve up to the strong and rocky (3) Mountains, but on the valley side the water is lined with trees- willows fresh and green with every spring, carrying in their lower leaf junctures the debris of the winter's flooding; and sycamores with mottled, white, recumbent limbs and branches that arch over the pool. On the sandy bank under the trees, the leaves lie deep and so crisp that a lizard makes a great skittering if he runs among them. Rabbits come out of the brush to sit on the sand in the evening, and the damp flats are covered with the night tracks of 'coons, and with the spread pads of dogs from the ranches, and with the split-wedge tracks of deer that come to drink in the dark.

There is a path through the willows and among the sycamores, a path beaten hard by boys coming down from the ranches to swim in the deep pool, and beaten hard by tramps who come wearily down from the highway in the evening to jungle-up near water. In front of the low horizontal limb of a giant sycamore, there is an ash pile made by many fires; the limb is worn smooth by men who have sat on it.

Evening of a hot day started the little wind to moving among the leaves. The shade climbed up the hills toward the top. On the sand banks, the rabbits sat as quietly as little gray sculptured stones. And then from the direction of the state highway came the sound of footsteps on crisp sycamore leaves. The rabbits hurried noiselessly for cover. A stilted heron labored up into the air and pounded down river. For a moment the place was lifeless, and then two men emerged from the path and came into the opening by the green pool.

1. Write in the space below the three missing proper nouns from the extract above:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which animal is mentioned twice?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why is this significant?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. This description is calm and peaceful. Write down FIVE words or phrases which suggest this:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Homework Four — Part One: George and Lennie

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

RECAP: Use the following words to write THREE sentences about the Dust Bowl: **DROUGHT KANSAS**

## **WORKERS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Re-read Part One and answer the following questions:

1. Which man walks in front of the other?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why is this important?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Find and copy two phrases which show Lennie is compared to animals.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why does George tell Lennie not to drink so much water?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why is George angry with the bus driver?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Where are George and Lennie going?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What does Lennie want with his beans?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Find and copy two words or phrases to show George is frustrated with Lennie.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**The American Dream**– The American Dream is a national ethos of the United States, which declares that freedoms, prosperity, success, and social mobility, can all be achieved through hard work. It implies that society has few barriers preventing anyone from achieving their dreams, should they be willing to put in enough effort. James Truslow Adams described it as life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone.

Before they go to sleep, Lennie asks George to tell him, again, their plan for the future. Use the space below to show how this fits in with the idea of the American Dream. Include at least THREE quotes from this chapter.



## Homework Five— Part One Extract Question

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

Lennie crawled slowly and cautiously around the fire until he was close to George. He sat back on his heels. George turned the bean-cans so that another side faced the fire. He pretended to be unaware of Lennie so close beside him.

‘George,’ very softly. No answer. ‘George!’

‘Whatta you want?’

‘I was only foolin’, George. I don’t want no ketchup. I wouldn’t eat no ketchup if it was right here beside me.’

‘If it was here, you could have some.’

‘But I wouldn’t eat none, George. I’d leave it all for you. You could cover your beans with it and I wouldn’t touch none of it.’

George still stared morosely at the fire. ‘When I think of the swell time I could have without you, I go nuts. I never get no peace.’

Lennie still knelt. He looked off into the darkness across the river. ‘George, you want I should go away and leave you alone?’

‘Where the hell could you go?’

‘Well I could. I could go off in the hills there. Some place I’d find a cave.’

‘Yeah? How’d you eat? You ain’t got sense enough to find nothing to eat.’

‘I’d find things, George. I don’t need no nice food with ketchup. I’d lay out in the sun and nobody’d hurt me. An’ if I foun’ a mouse, I could keep it. Nobody’d take it away from me.’

George looked quickly and searchingly at him. ‘I been mean, ain’t I?’

‘If you don’ want me I can go off in the hills an’ find a cave. I can go away any time.’

‘No – look! I was jus’ foolin’, Lennie. Course I want you to stay with me.’

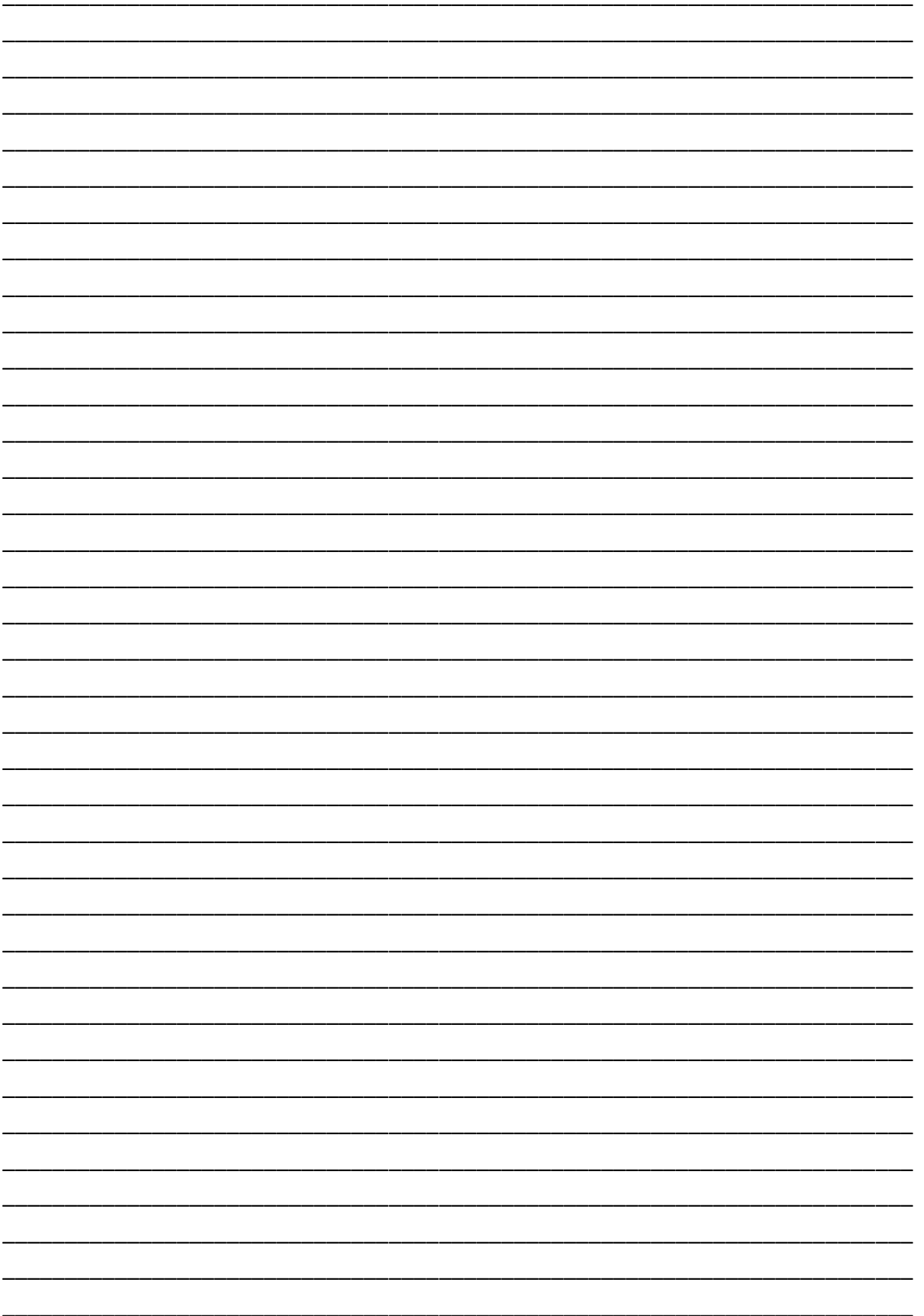
**Look closely at how George and Lennie speak and behave here. What does it reveal about their relationship? [10]**

### Success Criteria:

- Place the extract within the novel
- At least 7/8 quotes discussed in detail
- Language and structure
- Embedded quotes—not plonked there!
- Focus on the question - refer back
- No waffle - every sentence is necessary









## Homework Seven—Introducing Candy, Curley and Curley’s Wife

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Which character does George and Lennie meet first at the ranch?</b>	
<b>What drink did the boss give the workers at Christmas?</b>	
<b>What simile does George use to describe Lennie to the boss?</b>	
<b>Which word beginning with P is used to describe Curley’s glance?</b>	
<b>Why does Curley wear a glove “fulla Vaseline”?</b>	
<b>Where does George tell Lennie to hide if he gets into trouble?</b>	
<b>What colour is used in the description of Curley’s Wife?</b>	
<b>What does Slim call Curley’s Wife when he sees her?</b>	
<b>Who is described as the “prince of the ranch?”</b>	
<b>How many pups were drowned?</b>	

Make a list of at least FIVE words / phrases used by Candy or George to describe Curley’s Wife? What do these words tell you about how they see her?

Re-read the first introduction of Curley's Wife from "Both men glanced up..." to "We gotta stay" and answer the following questions:

1. Read the opening sentence: *Both men looked up, for the rectangle of sunshine in the door was cut off.*

What could this imply? (Think symbolism). Mark ONE

- a. That Curley's Wife was stood in the doorway
- b. That Curley's Wife was blocking the sunlight
- c. That Curley's Wife's presence cast a shadow over the bunkhouse
- d. That Curley's Wife's presence was a negative factor

2. Which word best describes Curley's Wife's clothing?

- a. Practical
- b. Beautiful
- c. Impractical
- d. Fashionable

3. Curley's Wife's voice was unpleasant to listen to. What two words are used to describe it?

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4. How does Curley's Wife respond when Slim tells her Curley was going into the house? What does this imply about their relationship?

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5. Candy and George are both very negative about Curley's Wife. Explain how her behaviour here backs this up.

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## Homework Eight - A Death and a Fight

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

What does Slim give Lennie?	
Lennie raped a girl in Weed: True or False?	
Who suggests that Candy should shoot his dog?	
Candy gives up hope of saving his dog when Slim agrees it should be shot: True or False?	
What card game do George and Whit decide to play?	
Where do the men go on Saturday nights?	
Where does Carlson tell Curley to keep his wife?	
What is Lennie worried about after the fight?	

The shooting of Candy's dog is an important incident in the novel. Under the following headings, explain what the incident tells us about:

**Candy**

**Carlson, Slim and the workers**

**Life on the ranch**





## Homework Eleven - Crooks Extract

Date due:



Crooks laughed again. "A guy can talk to you an' be sure you won't go blabbin'. Couple of weeks an' them pups'll be all right. George knows what he's about. Jus' talks, an' you don't understand nothing." He leaned forward excitedly. "This is just a nigger talkin', an' a busted-back nigger. So it don't mean nothing, see? You couldn't remember it anyways. I seen it over an' over- a guy talkin' to another guy and it don't make no difference if he don't hear or understand. The thing is, they're talkin', or they're settin' still not talkin'. It don't make no difference, no difference." His excitement had increased until he pounded his knee with this hand. "George can tell you screwy things, and it don't matter. It's just the talking. It's just bein' with another guy. That's all." He paused. His voice grew soft and persuasive. "S'pose George don't come back no more. S'pose he took a powder and just ain't coming back. What'll you do then?"

Lennie's attention came gradually to what had been said. "What?" he demanded.

"I said s'pose George went into town tonight and you never heard of him no more." Crooks pressed forward some kind of private victory. "Just s'pose that," he repeated.

"He won't do it," Lennie cried. "George wouldn't do nothing like that. I been with George a long a time. He'll come back tonight-" But the doubt was too much for him. "Don't you think he will?"

Crooks' face lighted with pleasure in his torture. "Nobody can't tell 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 so he can't come back."

Lennie struggled to understand. "George won't do nothing like that," he repeated. "George is careful. He won't get hurt. He ain't never been hurt, 'cause he's careful."

"Well, s'pose, jus' s'pose he don't come back. What'll you do then?"

Lennie's face wrinkled with apprehension. "I don' know. Say, what you doin' anyways?" he cried. "This ain't true. George ain't got hurt."

Crooks bored in on him. "Want me ta tell ya what'll happen? They'll take ya to the booby hatch. They'll tie ya up with a collar, like a dog."

Suddenly Lennie's eyes centered and grew quiet, and mad. He stood up and walked dangerously toward Crooks. "Who hurt George?" he demanded.

Crooks saw the danger as it approached him. He edged back on his bunk to get out of the way. "I was just supposin'," he said. "George ain't hurt. He's all right. He'll be back all right."

Lennie stood over him. "What you supposin' for? Ain't nobody goin' to suppose no hurt to George."

Crooks removed his glasses and wiped his eyes with his fingers. "Jus' set down," he said. "George ain't hurt."

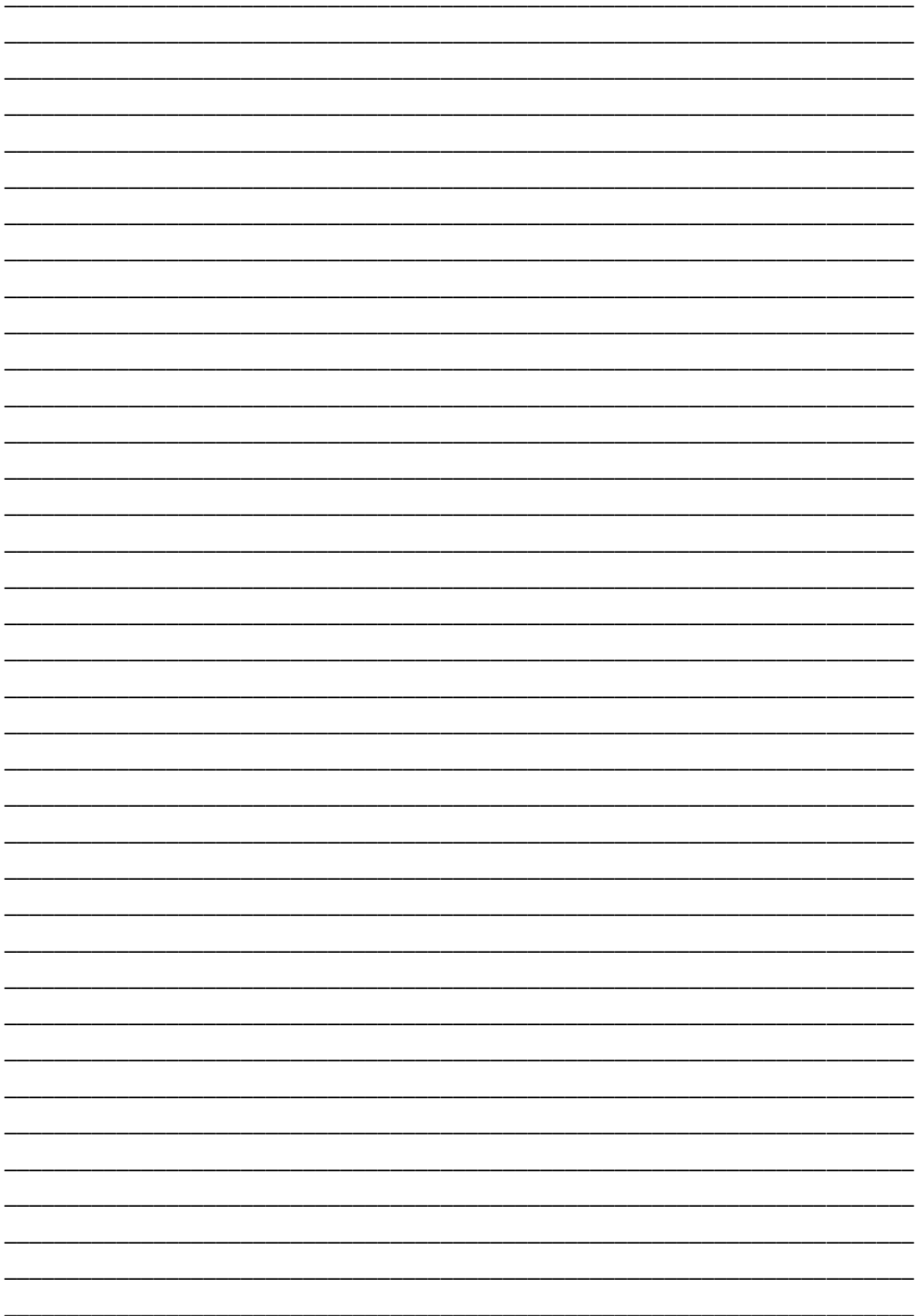
**What are your impressions of Crooks in this extract? Make close reference to the text to support your answer.**

**(10 marks)**

### Success Criteria:

- Place the extract within the novel
- At least 7/8 quotes discussed in detail
- Language and structure
- Embedded quotes—not plonked there!
- Focus on the question - refer back





## Homework Twelve - Curley's Wife's Death

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

### Apportioning Blame for Curley's Wife's Death

In each box, explain how and why each character could have contributed to the tragedy. Use this information to decide who you think is most to blame.

<b>Lennie</b>	<b>Curley's Wife</b>
<b>Curley</b>	<b>George</b>

The person who I think is most responsible is \_\_\_\_\_ because

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## Homework Thirteen - Lennie's Death

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. The setting for the end of the novel is the same as the beginning. Why did Steinbeck do this?**

- a. He knew the place well and could describe it in detail.
- b. It symbolises that the men's hopes and dreams are impossible—they end up where they started.
- c. It adds tension by providing Lennie with somewhere to hide while the men are looking for him.

**2. What is the purpose of Aunt Clara and the rabbit speaking to Lennie?**

- a. To reinforce the idea that the rabbits are very important to him.
- b. To suggest that Lennie is crazy.
- c. To act as Lennie's subconscious to show his guilt and his inability to control himself.

**3. In this chapter, the heron kills the water snake. Why is this included?**

- a. To reinforce the idea of death, and to prepare us for Lennie's death.
- b. To show the cruelty of nature.
- c. To create tension.

**4. Find and copy a word or phrase which shows George's struggle to shoot Lennie.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Who says: "What the hell you suppose is eating them two guys"?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. What does this tell you about this character?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Homework Fourteen - The Best Laid Plans....

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

Most of the characters in the novel have dreams or hopes for the future. Some of these appear to be more realistic and possible to achieve; others seem unlikely ever to happen. Task: Complete the table below exploring this theme.

	<b>What is their dream?</b>	<b>Quote to show this.</b>	<b>Is it realistic / likely to come true?</b>	<b>How is it shattered?</b>
<b>Candy</b>				
<b>Crooks</b>				
<b>Curley's Wife</b>				
<b>George and Lennie</b>				

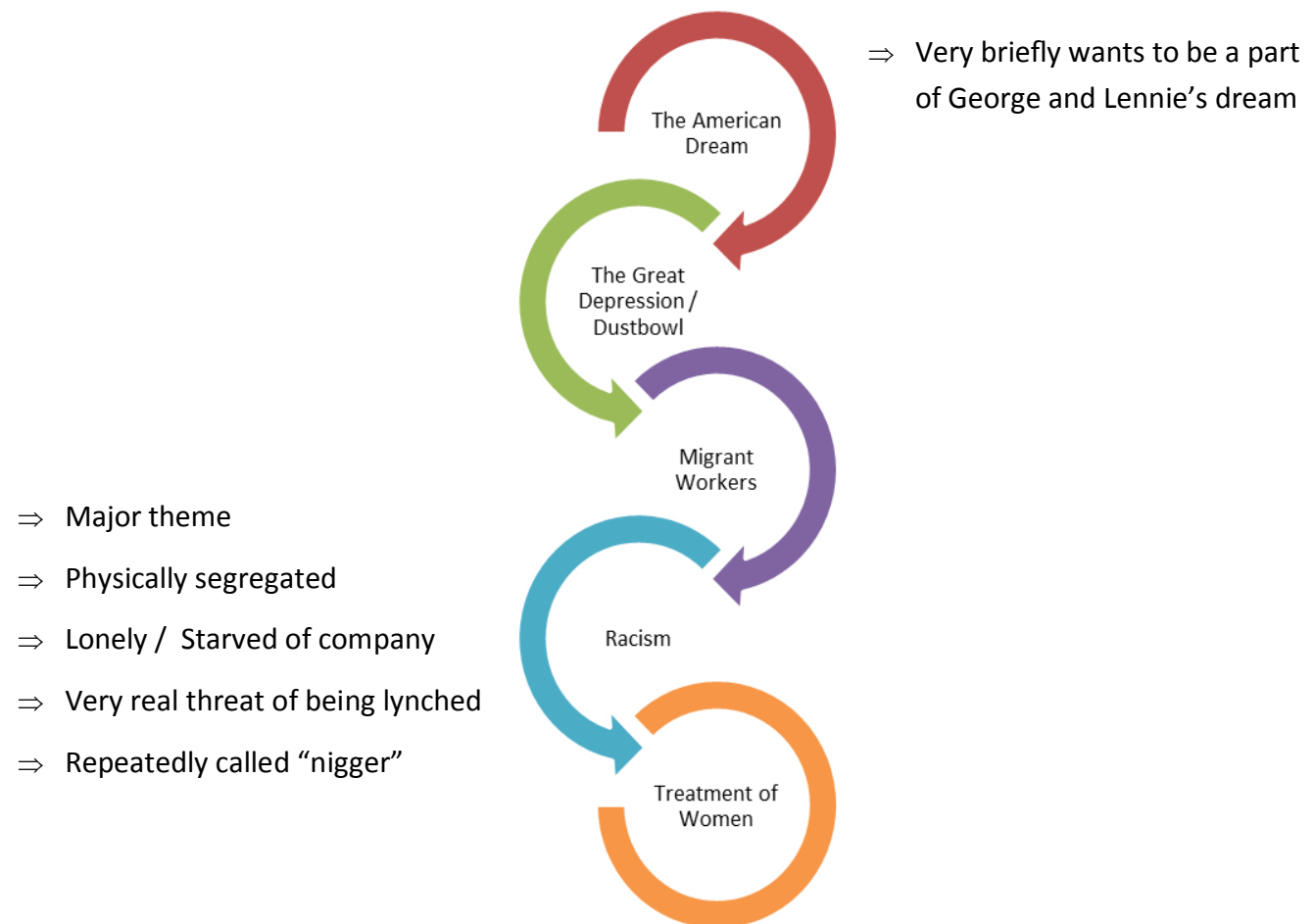
# Homework Fifteen - Writing About Character and Context

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

The essay which you have to write about *Of Mice and Men* will ask you link back to the social and historical context of the time: 1930s America.

It is very important to think about this when planning your essays.

**Show how John Steinbeck uses the character of Crooks to highlight some aspects of American society in the 1930s.**



## EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH:

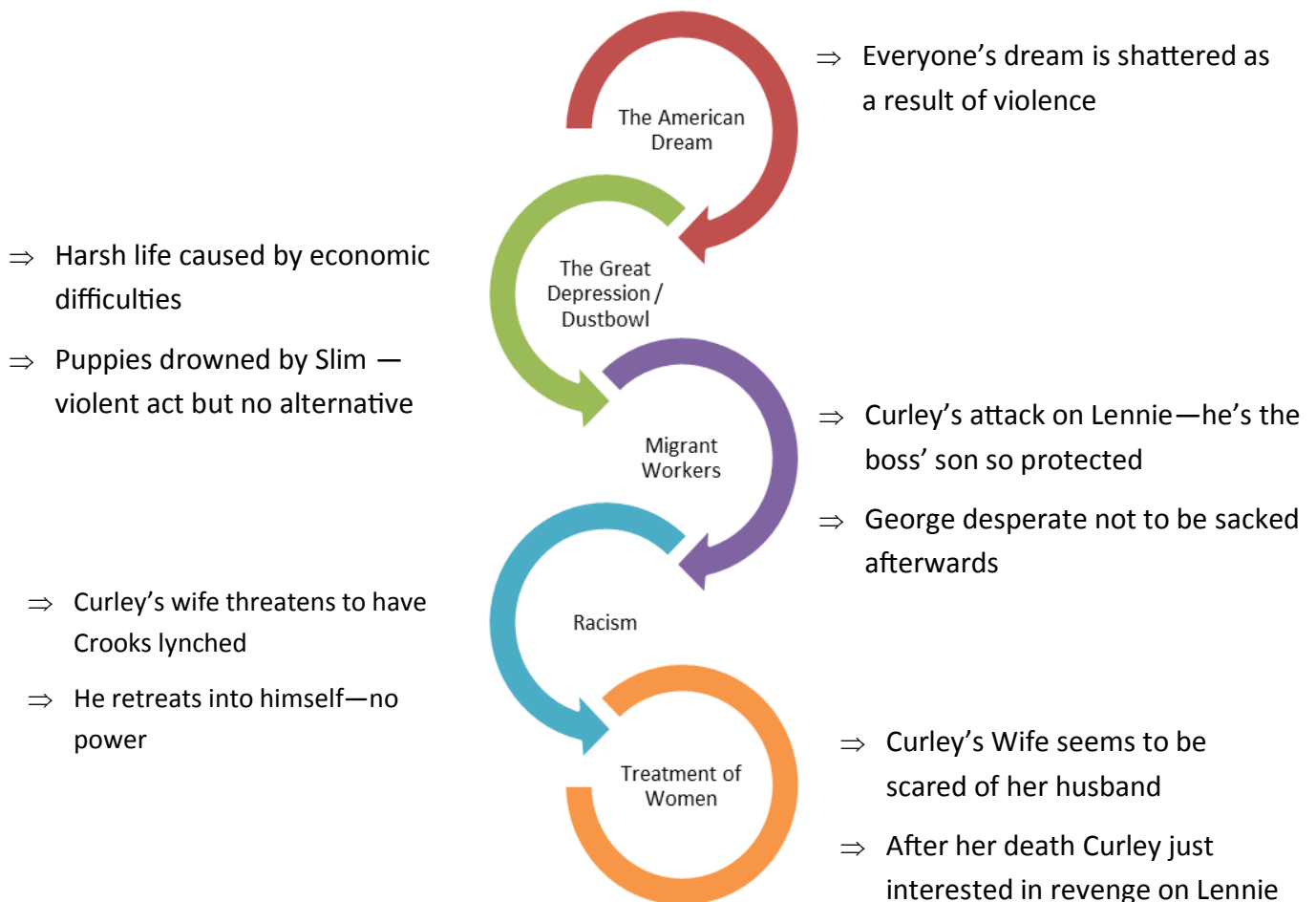
The character of Crooks is initially very hostile and aggressive towards Lennie. When Lennie appears at the door of his room, Crooks tells him to get out. He says "I ain't wanted in the bunkhouse, and you ain't wanted here." Crooks is physically separated from the other men, and not allowed even the few meagre opportunities they have such as sharing the bunkhouse and playing cards together. Steinbeck is highlighting the segregation that was so common for black people in 1930s America. Through Crooks' bitterness and anger towards the white men on the ranch, it appears that Steinbeck is making a social comment on how black people were treated badly at the time.



# Homework Sixteen - Writing About Theme and Context

Date due: \_\_\_\_\_

To what extent does violence, or the threat of violence, affect characters in *Of Mice and Men*? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, historical and cultural context.



## EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH:

After discovering that his wife has been violently killed by Lennie, Curley shows no sense of grief or sorrow for her. Instead, he is totally set on finding Lennie and taking revenge, although it seems more likely that he wants revenge for his broken hand rather than revenge for the death of his wife. Almost the first thing he says is: "I'll kill the big son of a bitch myself". As is expected, Curley reacts violently but the men don't try to stop him from going after Lennie. This suggests that taking the law into your own hands was something common at this time, perhaps particularly where women were concerned as they were seen as the weaker sex, and as is shown in the case of Curley's Wife, essentially the property of men. In Weed, George and Lennie are set after by a mob after the incident with the girl in the red dress which reinforces the idea of violence being commonly used to defend women.



