

QUOTATION CHALLENGE

METHODS: highlight and label the method (s) Steinbeck has used in this quotation.

CONTEXT: what does this quotation convey about life for men in 1930s America?

“Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don’t belong no place...”

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which create a sense of empathy for this character. Explain why it creates empathy.

CONNECT: What does George say here which contradicts the impression he attempted to give of himself earlier?

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CONTEXT: what does this quotation reveal about the manner in which those 'on a ranch' thought of themselves, and why?

"I didn't hear nothing you guys was sayin'. I ain't interested in nothing you was sayin'. A guy on a ranch don't never listen nor he doesn't ast no questions."

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which convey a sense of loneliness for this character. Explain why.

CONNECT: How does this quotation link to the way in which society was organised in 1930s America?

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CONTEXT: what does this quotation uncover with regards to 1930s society and can this be linked to a modern audience?

“Ain’t many guys travel around together, he mused. I don’t know why. Maybe ever’body in the whole damn world is scared of each other.”

SYNTHESISE: Identify one word which shows how Slim feels about the way in which 1930s American society was operating. Explain why.

CONNECT: Does this quote suggest other characters will be jealous of the relationship which George and Lennie have? Give quotes from other characters to support your answer.

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CONTEXT: how does this quotation encapsulate the feeling and mood of 1930s America?

“I ought to of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn’t of ought to let no stranger shoot my dog.”

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which convey a sense of regret for this character. Explain why.

CONNECT: Can you link the regret shown in this quotation to other actions not taken by characters in this Novel?

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CONTEXT: why is this quote considered a 'dream' rather than a reality for our characters?

"We wouldn't ask nobody if we could. Jus' say, 'We'll go to her,' an' we would."

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which show George craves a sense of independence. Explain why.

CONNECT: how do other characters on the ranch feel about this idea? Use specific quotes.

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CONTEXT: is there anything in this quote which a 1930s audience would find unusual, given the character who says it?

“Ever’body wants a little piece of lan’. I read plenty of books out here. Nobody never gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land.”

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which show that it is easier to live a pessimistic life than an optimistic one. Explain why.

CONNECT: does the views shared here by Crook differ to other people who are higher up the chain of hierarchy on the ranch?

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CONTEXT: given what we know about 1930s America, does this quote explain why characters act how they do? Explain why.

“A guy needs somebody to be near him. He whined, ‘a guy goes nuts if he ain’t got nobody.’”

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which show that the idea of living an isolated life is a dangerous thing. Explain why.

CONNECT: is there anything in this quote which contradicts other quotes from throughout the novel which speak about companionship?

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CONTEXT: how would a 1930s audience react to this scene compared to a contemporary one?

“And the meanness and the planning and the discontent and the ache for attention were all gone from her face. She was very pretty and simply, and her face was sweet and young.”

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which show how misunderstood Curly's wife was Explain why.

CONNECT: was there anything we read earlier in the novel which foreshadowed this fatal end for Curly's wife?

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CONTEXT: how does the animal imagery in this quote link to the way in which 1930s society was organised?

“A silent head and beak lanced down and plucked it out by the head, and the beak swallowed the little snake while it’s tail waved frantically.”

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which underpin how important, everyday things in life were forgotten in 1930s America. Explain why.

CONNECT: how does the animal imagery in this scene link to that which was portrayed in the first scene?

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CONTEXT: does George's quotation suggest 1930s American people were happy with the way in which they lived?

"No, Lennie. I ain't mad. I never been mad, an' I ain't now. That's a thing I want ya to know."

SYNTHESISE: Identify two words which convey a sense of guilt for this character. Explain why.

CONNECT: do other characters in the Novel feel the same way about their relationships with their peers that George feels with regards to Lennie?