

**Exploring the context of the novel**

Answer the following questions using full sentences and quotations (and page numbers).

1. The opening scene of the novel seems to be a very peaceful and idyllic place before the arrival of the two men. What do you think John Steinbeck is suggesting about humans' ability to live harmoniously within the natural world?
2. George and Lennie's dream is discussed throughout the novel. What is the dream and why might it be more romantic than realistic? Think more about the time the novel is set than George's comment about the multi-coloured rabbits.
3. What does the bunkhouse suggest about the reality of the migrants' lives in 1930s' America? Compare the scene to that of the natural world at the opening of the novel.
4. Why do you think Steinbeck describes the characters' clothes and appearance in such detail? Look back at the description of George and Lennie and then at the Boss's description and consider what Steinbeck might be trying to convey to the reader.
5. Both Candy and Curley's wife seem lonely characters. In what ways is this presented to the reader? What might Steinbeck be implying about working people's lives in 1930s' America?