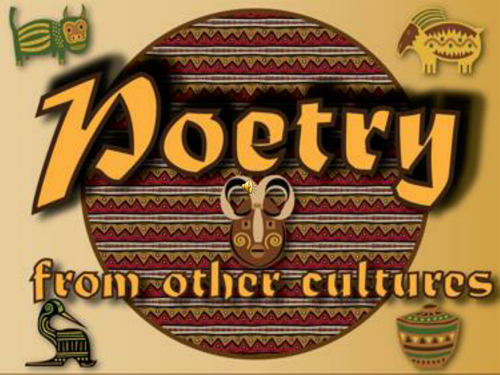
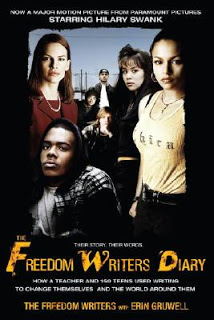
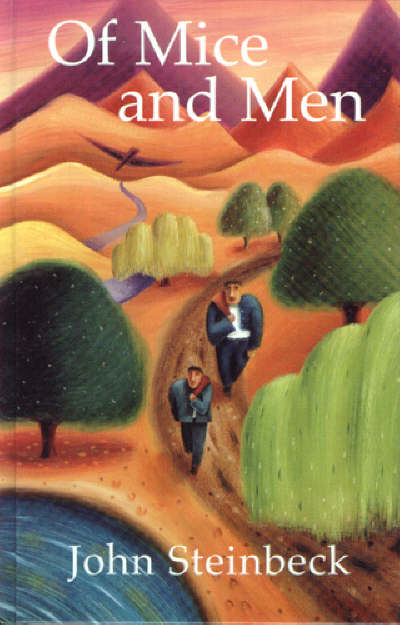
**English Year 8**

**Transition booklet**







**Name:**

This booklet will help you prepare for your return to school. Make sure you read it carefully and complete all activities.

**Term 5: Poetry from other cultures**

**Glossary Key Definitions**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Key term** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| **language:** | The writer’s choice of words and phrases and their impact. | When analysing poetry consider the effect of specific words. |
| **structure:** | The arrangement of a poem. When analysing poetry this could include repetition, punctuation, line/stanza length or the number and order of stanzas | The structure of a poem refers to the way it is presented to the reader. This could include technical things such as the line length and stanza format. Or it could include the flow of the words used and ideas conveyed. Line length shows the reader how it should be read. |
| **form:** | Some poems adopt specific forms/type of text e.g. sonnets or narrative poems | A poetic form just refers to a type of poem that follows a particular set of rules, whether it be the number of lines, the length or number of stanzas, rhyme scheme, subject matter. |
| **context:** | The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea. The background. | Context can include: Knowing about these things can give us an insight into the poet’s intentions and purpose in writing a poem. |

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| **Subject terminology:** |
| **imagery** – visually descriptive or figurative language, especially in a literary work. it helps you to imagine what is being described |
| **analyse** - examine something methodically and in detail, typically in order to explain and interpret it |
| **technique** - a way of carrying out a particular task. language devices are techniques which allow the writer to covey meaning (e.g. metaphors) |
| **inference** - an interpretation which goes beyond the literal information given |
| **deduction** - an understanding based on the evidence |
| **personification** - the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human |
| **rhythm** - the beat and movement of language (rise and fall, repetition and variation, change of pitch, mix of syllables, melody of words) |
| **rhyme** - words that sound alike, especially words that end in the same sound |
| **stanza** - group of lines in a poem that make up a single unit; like a paragraph in prose |
| **free verse** - poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular rhythm |
| **alliteration** – close repetition of consonant sounds, especially initial consonant sounds |
| **assonance** – close repetition of vowel sounds |
| **refrain** - a repeated line within a poem, similar to the chorus of a song |

**Term Definition**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **hyperbole.** | hyperbole is an exaggeration that is created to emphasize a point or bring out a sense of humour |
| **metaphor** | when you say something is something else, but you know it can’t be. “she is a star!” |
| **simile** | when you compare two things using ‘as’ or ‘like’ e.g. as brave as a lion |
| **oxymoron** | when two words are placed together with opposite meanings. |
| **emotive language** | language used to create a particular emotion in the reader. |
| **figurative language** | language that’s intended to create an image, association, or other effect in the mind of the listener or reader |
| **personification** | personification is a type of figurative language that gives human characteristics to non-living |
| **imagery** | when something is described in way that appeals to our senses. |
| **structure** | the way that the poem is arranged/organised. |
| **sibilance** | a repeated ‘s’, ’sh’ or ‘z’ sound. |
| **semantic field** | a group of words in the poem that are all about the same thing/idea. |
| **enjambment** | when one line runs into another without a pause. |
| **juxtaposition** | when two contrasting ideas are placed together to highlight their differences. |

**Task One:**

Write five sentences using the words in the definition.

1. *Hyperbole. - I have a million things to do this weekend.*

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**Task two:**

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Rain, hail, sleet, snow is an example of what technique?

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1. What is an extended metaphor?

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1. True or False. A narrative is a type of poem where every line rhyme.

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1. True or False. The E in GO MASSIVE stands for emotive language.

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5) What technique is:

“icy caverns of a cruel heart”?

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**Key words:**

**bilingual** – to be able to speak two languages fluently

**viewpoint** – a person’s opinion or point of view

**purpose** - the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists

**Task two:**

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a bilingual speaker?

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**Task three:**  **Search for My Tongue**

**You ask me what I mean**

**by saying I have lost my tongue.**

**I ask you, what would you do**

**if you had two tongues in your mouth,**

**and lost the first one, the mother tongue,**

**and could not really know the other,**

**the foreign tongue.**

**You could not use them both together**

**even if you thought that way.**

**And if you lived in a place you had to**

**speak a foreign tongue,**

**your mother tongue would rot,**

**rot and die in your mouth**

**until you had to “spit it out.”**

**I thought I spit it out**

**but over night while I dream**

**Answer the following questions based on the poem above:**

1. **What is this stanza about?**

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1. What quotation(s) show the two tongues battling against each other? Why does the poet choose to do this?

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**Not my Business**

**Task four:**

**Key words:**

**prejudice** – preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience

**discrimination** – the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex

**dictatorship** - a country governed by a dictator. a dictator is someone with total power over a country.

The poem is most likely set in Nigeria. The poet, Niyi Osundare, used his poetry to object to the cruel dictatorship that ruled his country.

He said, ‘African poets have no choice but to be political in their work: ‘You cannot keep quiet about the situation in the kind of countries we find ourselves in.’

Read the poem and answer the following questions.

NOT MY BUSINESS

They picked Akanni up one morning

Beat him soft like clay

And stuffed him down the belly

Of a waiting jeep.

What business of mine is it

So long they don’t take the yam

From my savouring mouth?

They came one night

Booted the whole house awake

And dragged Danladi out,

Then off to a lengthy absence.

What business of mine is it

So long they don’t take the yam

From my savouring mouth?

Chinwe went to work one day

Only to find her job was gone:

No query, no warning, no probe –

Just one neat sack for a stainless record.

What business of mine is it

So long they don’t take the yam

From my savouring mouth?

And then one evening

As I sat down to eat my yam

A knock on the door froze my hungry hand.

The jeep was waiting on my bewildered lawn

Waiting, waiting in its usual silence.

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Answer the following questions in full sentences

1. What country or type of country do you think the poem is set in?

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1. Who do you think ‘they’ are?

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1. What sort of people do ‘they’ appear to be?

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1. What words give you this impression?

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1. sort of people are Akanni, Danladi and Chinwe?

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1. What do you think happened to them?

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1. Do you think that they are coming back? Pick out two phrases to support your answer.

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1. Why do you think the speaker didn’t speak out?

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**Task five:**

**Presents from my Aunts in Pakistan**

**Key words:**

**autobiographical** – written work dealing with the writer’s own life

**discomfort** – a feeling of anxiety or embarrassment

**Western** – living in or originating from the West, in particular Europe or the USA

**Re-read the poem:**

1. **Underline any metaphors or imagery, within the following poem.**

**They sent me a salwar kameez**

**peacock-blue,**

**and another**

**glistening like an orange split open,**

**embossed slippers, gold and black**

**points curling.**

**Candy-striped glass bangles**

**snapped, drew blood.**

**Like at school, fashions changed**

**in Pakistan –**

**the salwar bottoms were broad and stiff,**

**then narrow.**

**My aunts chose an apple-green sari,**

**silver-bordered**

**for my teens.**

**I tried each satin-silken top –**

**was alien in the sitting-room.**

**I could never be as lovely**

**as those clothes –**

**I longed**

**for denim and corduroy.**

**My costume clung to me**

**and I was aflame,**

**I couldn’t rise up out of its fire,**

**half-English,**

**unlike Aunt Jamila.**

**I wanted my parents’ camel-skin lamp –**

**switching it on in my bedroom,**

**to consider the cruelty**

**and the transformation**

**from camel to shade,**

**marvel at the colours**

**like stained glass.**

**My mother cherished her jewellery –**

**Indian gold, dangling, filigree,**

**But it was stolen from our car.**

**The presents were radiant in my wardrobe.**

**My aunts requested cardigans**

**from Marks and Spencer’s.**

**My salwar kameez**

**didn’t impress the schoolfriend**

**who sat on my bed, asked to see**

**my weekend clothes.**

**But often I admired the mirror-work,**

**tried to glimpse myself**

**in the miniature**

**glass circles, recall the story**

**how the three of us**

**sailed to England.**

**Prickly heat had me screaming on the way.**

**I ended up in a cot**

**In my English grandmother’s dining-room,**

**found myself alone,**

**playing with a tin-boat.**

**I pictured my birthplace**

**from fifties’ photographs.**

**When I was older**

**there was conflict, a fractured land**

**throbbing through newsprint.**

**Sometimes I saw Lahore –**

**my aunts in shaded rooms,**

**screened from male visitors,**

**sorting presents,**

**wrapping them in tissue.**

**Or there were beggars, sweeper-girls**

**and I was there –**

**of no fixed nationality,**

**staring through fretwork**

**at the Shalimar Gardens.**

1. **What is the poem about?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **How does the poet feel?**

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1. **Are there any hints that the poem is autobiographical?**

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**Term 6: ‘Of Mice and Men’**

**Vocabulary and idioms**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Word/phrase** | **Meaning** |
| **brusque** | abrupt or blunt in manner or speech |
| **pugnacious** | inclined to fight or be aggressive |
| **jerkline** | the reins of a horse |
| **skinner** | driver of a team of mules |
| **bum steer** | to give wrong directions |
| **canned** | fired |
| **flapper** | mouth |
| **got the eye** | likes to flirt with members of the opposite sex |
| **licked** | to be beaten in a fight |
| **pants rabbits** | type of parasites, such as lice |
| **rassel** | lift, carry, and handle something heavy and awkward |
| **derogatory** | expressing criticism or a low opinion |

This novella was written in 1930s America. For you to understand the novella, you need to know a bit about the context (what it was like at the time the story was written), so you need to know a bit about 1930s America, and what it was like for the people who lived there.

**1930s America: Please read then answer the questions below**

The novel is set during the Great Depression, a period of great poverty and unemployment across the USA following the Wall Street Crash in 1929.

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. Although his family was not poor, when he was a teenager he spent time working on ranches near his home and this had a big impact on his writing. His experience of working with farm labourers and his interest in their lives is clearly evident in *Of Mice and Men*.

The Great Depression took place following the Wall Street Crash in October 1929 and affected the world’s economy. Wall Street is a street in New York City, where many financial firms are based. The Wall Street Crash happened as a result of these factors:

* many normal Americans had started investing in the stock exchange and borrowing money to do so
* stock prices rose unsustainably
* in October 1929, investors began to sell their shares in bulk, with 12.9 million shares sold on Black Thursday (24th October 1929) and 16 million shares sold on Black Tuesday (29th October 1929)

There were other circumstances that contributed to the Great Depression in the USA as well:

* too many goods were being made and not enough were being bought
* food prices were dropping, affecting farmers’ incomes
* there were too many small banks, which did not have the funds to manage when masses of customers withdrew savings in the autumn of 1929.

The Great Depression lasted for ten years worldwide, and for the USA it did not fully end until 1941 when the country became involved in World War Two. The depression got increasingly worse between 1929 and 1932. At the peak of the Great Depression, it is thought that between 13 million and 15 million people in the USA were unemployed. Many people across America suffered from poverty, hunger and disease as a result of the depression. Benefits did not exist in America at this time, so people who lost their jobs could also lose their homes and found it very difficult to buy food. People lived in tin huts as they had lost their homes, and men travelled for miles looking for any farm work or labouring jobs they could find. They were known as ‘migrant workers’.

1930s America was also a time of great prejudice. People were extremely racist, and black people were regularly victimized and attacked. They would also find it much harder to get jobs. Disabled people were also prejudiced against, and were treated unkindly and unfairly.

1. Why did John Steinbeck write about farm workers?
2. Name one reason why the Wall Street Crash happened.
3. Apart from the Wall Street Crash, give one reason why the Great Depression happened.
4. Name two ways people suffered during the Great Depression.
5. Why couldn’t people buy food if they lost their jobs?
6. How many people were unemployed at the peak of the Great Depression?
7. Where did people who had lost their homes live?
8. What were migrant workers?
9. Name one group of people who faced prejudice in 1930s America.
10. How long did the Great Depression last?

**Chapter 1**

**Chapter summary**

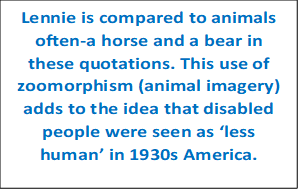
The story opens with the description of a riverbed in California. Two men walk along the path. The first, George, is small, wiry, and sharp-featured, while his companion, Lennie, is large and awkward. They are both dressed in denim, farmhand clothes.

As they reach a clearing, Lennie stops to drink from the river, and George warns him not to drink too much or he will get sick, as he did the night before. As their conversation continues, it becomes clear that the larger man has a mild mental disability, and that his companion looks out for his safety. George begins to complain about the bus driver who dropped them off a long way from their intended destination—a ranch on which they are due to begin work. Lennie interrupts him to ask where they are going. His companion impatiently reminds him of their movements over the past few days, and then notices that Lennie is holding a dead mouse. George takes it away from him. Lennie insists that he is not responsible for killing the mouse, and that he just wanted to pet it, but George loses his temper and throws it across the stream. George warns Lennie that they are going to work on a ranch, and that he must behave himself when they meet the boss. George does not want any trouble of the kind they had in Weed, the last place they worked.

George decides that they will stay in the clearing for the night, and as they prepare their bean supper, Lennie crosses the stream and recovers the mouse, only to have George find him out immediately and take the mouse away again. Apparently, Lennie’s Aunt Clara used to give him mice to pet, but he tends to “break” small creatures unintentionally when he shows his affection for them, killing them because he doesn’t know his own strength. As the two men sit down to eat, Lennie asks for ketchup. This request launches George into a long speech about Lennie’s ungratefulness. George complains that he could get along much better if he didn’t have to care for Lennie. He uses the incident that got them chased out of Weed to prove his point. Lennie, a lover of soft things, stroked the fabric of a girl’s dress, and would not let go. The locals assumed he assaulted her, and ran them out of town.

After this outburst, George feels sorry for losing his temper and apologises by telling Lennie’s favourite ‘story’, the plan for their future happiness. The life of a ranch-hand, according to George, is one of the loneliest in the world, and most men working on ranches have no one to look out for them. But he and Lennie have each other, and someday, as soon as they manage to save enough money, they will buy a farm together and, as Lennie puts it, “live off the fatta the lan’.” They will grow their own food, raise animals, and keep rabbits, which Lennie will tend. This familiar story cheers both of them up. As night falls, George tells Lennie that if he gets in any trouble while working at the ranch, he is to return to this clearing, hide in the bushes, and wait for George to come.

**Read the extract and then answer the questions. This extract is describing George and Lennie when they are first introduced to the reader**

**Chapter 2 summary**

**Analytical paragraph: How is Lennie described in the extract?**

**Model paragraph:**

Lennie is described as being like an animal. He drags his feet ‘the way a bear drags his paws’. In other words, he is larger than most people and his size could scare people. More specifically, the simile ‘like a bear’ suggests that he may look innocent but could be dangerous, just like a bear.

**Your turn (at least two paragraphs)…**

**On the other hand, Lennie is described using a semantic field of ‘big’ words. The two men juxtapose (contrast) each other.**

**George, the ‘small man’, is repeatedly described using a semantic field (group of connected words) of ‘small’ and ‘thin’**

**Lennie follows George all the time, and follows him so closely he almost ‘ran him over’.**

They had walked in single file down the path, and even in the open

one stayed behind the other. Both were dressed in denim trousers and

in denim coats with brass buttons. Both wore black, shapeless hats and

both carried tight blanket rolls slung over their shoulders. The first

man was small and quick, dark of face, with restless eyes and sharp,

strong features. Every part of him was defined: small, strong hands,

slender arms, a thin and bony nose. Behind him walked his opposite,

a huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes, and wide,

sloping shoulders; and he walked heavily, dragging his feet a

little, the way a bear drags his paws. His arms did not swing at his

sides, but hung loosely.

The first man stopped short in the clearing, and the follower nearly

ran over him. He took off his hat and wiped the sweat-band with his

forefinger and snapped the moisture off. His huge companion dropped

his blankets and flung himself down and drank from the surface of

the green pool; drank with long gulps, snorting into the water like

a horse. The small man stepped nervously beside him.

"Lennie!" he said sharply. "Lennie, for God' sakes don't drink so

much." Lennie continued to snort into the pool. The small man leaned

over and shook him by the shoulder. "Lennie. You gonna be sick like

you was last night."

George and Lennie have arrived at the ranch and are being shown around the bunk house by an old swamper (cleaner) named Candy, who is missing a hand (he had an accident years ago on the ranch).

The boss then enters the room and begins interviewing George and Lennie. He's angry that the men didn't arrive yesterday when they were supposed to, so George tells him that the bus driver dropped them off too far away. As the boss asks questions about their previous work experience, he notices that George is doing all the talking and is suspicious of George.

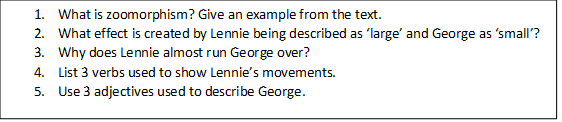
Candy returns with his very old dog, then Curley, the boss's son, pops his head in. It's clear that Curley likes to act tough. When he leaves, Candy explains that Curley is a boxer, so he's always trying to pick fights with big guys, like Lennie. Curley lives in his dad's house with his new wife, who Candy refers to as a "tart" who he's seen giving other guys "the eye." George warns Lennie to stay away from Curley.

Next, Curley's wife stops by looking for Curley. She's young and pretty and flirts with George. When Slim (a friendly worker) enters, she leaves. George warns Lennie to stay away from her too, and Lennie begins to get a bad feeling about working here.

Carlson, another worker, comes in and asks Slim about the puppies that his dog had the previous night. Lennie overhears this conversation and promises to ask Slim if Lennie can have one of the puppies. Carlson suggests that they give a puppy to Candy so that he can shoot his dog and get rid of it since it's so old and smells.

**Answer these questions on the chapter summary:**

1. What is Candy’s job?
2. How did he lose his hand?
3. Why is the boss angry?
4. Who is Curley?
5. Apart from working on the farm, what does Curley do?
6. Who does Curley often pick fights with?
7. What does Candy call Curley’s wife?
8. Why does he call her this?
9. What does Lennie get a bad feeling about?
10. What does Carlson think Candy should do to his dog?

****

Chapter 3 Summary

In this chapter Lennie gets a puppy from Slim and spends every free second he has in the barn with it. Slim and George talk about Lennie, and George confesses to him that he takes care of Lennie because he grew up with him and knew his Aunt Clara, so when she died, let Lennie come along with him. George also tells Slim about what happened in Weed. Slim agreed that Lennie isn't mean, he just isn't bright.

Candy joins them in the bunkhouse with his old dog. Carlson explains that the dog is suffering, and it's best to put it out of its misery. Candy doesn't want his dog to die, but he finally agrees to let Carlson take him. Candy lies rigidly in his bed until the men hear the sound of the gunshot signalling the dog was dead.

Lennie asks George to once again describe the little farm that he knows about that they someday hope to own, and George describes it. Candy sits up and asks how much a place like that would cost. George tells Candy that he could get it for six hundred dollars.

Candy then explains how he lost his hand on this ranch a long time ago, so they gave him two hundred and fifty dollars and how he saved up fifty more since then plus he has fifty more coming to him at the end of the month. He offers to help George and Lennie buy the place. Candy has no relatives and doesn't expect to live a great deal longer, so he would will his share of the property back to Lennie and George. George decides to take Candy up on the offer.

The three of them are excited but George makes Candy and Lennie promise not to tell anyone their plan, so that no one can ruin it.

As Lennie is still smiling at this dream possibly coming true, Curley comes in and asks Lennie what he is laughing at. Lennie doesn't know how to respond, so Curley punches him in the face. Again, Lennie is too stunned to react, so Curley continues to beat him. Lennie is a bloody mess by the time George tells Lennie to fight back. At that point Lennie simply grabs Curley's swinging fist to stop him punching him, but he is so strong he smashes every bone in his hand.

George gets Lennie to release Curley, and the men all agree that Curley needs to see a doctor, but first, Slim convinces Curley not to tell anyone what Lennie did but instead to say he got his hand caught in a machine. After the men leave, Lennie cries to George about how he didn't want to hurt Curley.

**Read through the extract from Chapter 3 then answer the questions**

Curley stepped over to Lennie like a terrier. "What the hell you laughin' at?"

Lennie looked blankly at him. "Huh?"

Then Curley's rage exploded. "Come on, ya big bastard. Get up on your feet. No big son-of-a-bitch is gonna laugh at me. I'll show ya who's yella."

Lennie looked **helplessly** at George, and then he got up and tried to retreat. Curley was balanced and poised. He **slashed** at Lennie with his left, and then **smashed** down his nose with a right. Lennie gave **a cry of terror**. Blood welled from his nose. "George," he cried. "Make 'um let me alone, George." He backed until he was against the wall, and Curley followed, slugging him in the face. Lennie's hands remained at his sides; he was too frightened to defend himself. George was on his feet yelling, "Get him, Lennie. Don't let him do it."

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. Slim jumped up. "The dirty little rat," he cried, "I'll get 'um myself."

George put out his hand and grabbed Slim. "Wait a minute," he shouted. He cupped his hands around his mouth and yelled, "Get 'im, Lennie!”

Lennie took his hands away from his face and looked about for George, and Curley **slashed** at his eyes. The big face was covered with blood. George yelled again, "I said get him."

Curley's fist was swinging when Lennie reached for it. The next minute Curley was **flopping like a fish on a line**, and his closed fist was lost in Lennie's big hand. George ran down the room. "Leggo of him, Lennie. Let go."

But Lennie watched in terror the flopping little man whom he held. Blood ran down Lennie's face, one of his eyes was cut and closed. George slapped him in the face again and again, and still Lennie held on to the closed fist. Curley was white and shrunken by now, and his struggling had become weak. He stood crying, **his fist lost in Lennie's** **paw**.

**Curley’s actions are violent and aggressive-the verbs ‘slashed’ and ‘smashed’ show the reader how aggressive he is**

**Lennie is often compared to a bear or a horse. Here he is described as having huge paws- at first hiding behind them, then at the end using them to save himself.**

**Lennie is described as helpless and crying. The verb ‘bleated’ makes him sound like a hunted weak animal, not the powerful strong man he is.**

**The simile used here ‘flopping like a fish on a line’ shows how Lennie has Curley’s life in his hands…he could easily kill him or let him go.**

1. Name two similes used in the passage.
2. What is the effect of comparing Curley to a ‘fish on a line’?
3. What is the technique used in the quotation ‘bleated with terror’?
4. Name two aggressive verbs used to describe Curley’s actions…what are the effects of using those words?

**Analytical paragraph: How is language used in the passage to show fear or aggression?**

**Model answer**

Language is used to show how aggressive Curley is. He is described as stepping over to Lennie ‘like a terrier’. In other words, he is behaving like a dog wanting to fight. More specifically, the word ‘terrier’ makes him seem like he is small and makes a lot of noise, like a small yapping dog, but might not be as dangerous as he tries to sound.

**Your turn (at least two paragraphs)…**

**Chapter 4 summary**

It is Saturday night, and Crooks is alone in his room when Lennie appears in the door. At first Crooks sends Lennie away, but Lennie's smile finally warms Crooks, and he lets him stay and talk.

During their conversation, Lennie reveals the secret about the farm they are buying, which Crooks at first thinks Lennie is making up. Crooks then talks about his own loneliness, and how the other men are unkind to him because he’s black.

Candy appears and talks with Lennie about the rabbits. Crooks asks to join their venture and says that he would work very hard and for no pay, just food and somewhere to live.

Curley's wife appears in the doorway, claiming that she is looking for Curley and complaining that she just wants someone to talk to. She asks what happened to Curley’s hand. Candy tells her twice that Curley caught it in a machine, but she doesn't believe him.

Candy tells her to go away because she is not wanted in the barn, and mentions them getting their own place. Curley's wife laughs at the men and says it will never happen.

Before she leaves, she asks Lennie where he got the bruises on his face. Guiltily, Lennie says Curley got his hand caught in a machine. When she continues to talk to Lennie, Crooks tells her she has no right in his room and that he is going to tell the boss to keep her out. Curley's wife threatens Crooks with lynching (being murdered for being black). When Candy says that he and Lennie would tell on her for framing Crooks, she says no one will listen to him. They realize the men are returning; Curley's wife tells Lennie she is glad he busted up Curley a bit, and then she leaves.

George appears, and Candy admits that he told Crooks about the farm. It is clear that George is not happy, and so the defeated Crooks tells Candy to forget he asked to join them.

**Read the extract on the next page then answer the questions**

1. What is Crooks’ bed like?

2. What does this show he is treated like?

3. What is his room filled with?

4. What does the copy of the California civil code show?

**The extract is about Crooks’ room. He has his own room-not because the Boss is kind to him, but because he is black. The other men say he ‘stinks’ because he is black. Remember, 1930s America was a cruel, racist time.**

The California civil code was a book of the laws people had to follow. At this time there would be lots of laws about what black people could and couldn’t do, showing that Crooks wanted to know his rights.

Crooks room is filled with the things he uses for his job; all he has in life is his job, he is alone otherwise.

Crooks’ bed is a box of straw, like an animal would be given to sleep on. He lives like an animal with his medicine and the horse medicine in the same box, like they are all the same.

Crooks, the Negro stable buck, had his bunk in the harness room; a little shed that leaned off the wall of the barn. On one side of the little room there was a square four-paned window, and on the other, a narrow plank door leading into the barn. Crooks' bunk was a long box filled with straw, on which his blankets were flung. On the wall by the window there were pegs on which hung broken harness in process of being mended; strips of new leather; and under the window itself a little bench for leather-working tools, curved knives and needles and balls of linen thread, and a small hand riveter. On pegs were also pieces of harness, a split collar with the horsehair stuffing sticking out, a broken hame, and a trace chain with its leather covering split.

Crooks had his apple box over his bunk, and in it a range of medicine bottles, both for himself and for the horses. There were cans of saddle soap and a drippy can of tar with its paint brush sticking over the edge. And scattered about the floor were a number of personal possessions; for, being alone, Crooks could leave his things about, and being a stable buck and a cripple, he was more permanent than the other men, and he had accumulated more possessions than he could carry on his back.

Crooks possessed several pairs of shoes, a pair of rubber boots, a big alarm clock and a single-barrelled shotgun. And he had books, too; a tattered dictionary and a mauled copy of the California civil code for 19O5. There were battered magazines and a few dirty books on a special shelf over his bunk. A pair of large gold-rimmed spectacles hung from a nail on the wall above his bed.

**Analytical paragraph: How does Steinbeck show Crooks life in the extract?**

**Model paragraph**

Steinbeck shows Crooks’ life to be lonely in the extract. His room ‘leaned of the side of the barn’. In other words, he lives among the horses. More specifically, the word ‘barn’ shows that he is treated no better than an animal, and lives a lonely life.

**Your turn (at least two paragraphs)…**

**Chapter 5 Summary**

This chapter begins with Lennie in the barn holding his little puppy that he just accidentally killed. He's yelling at the puppy as though it's the puppy's fault that it's so small, and it died. Curley's wife comes up to Lennie, and he tries to explain to her that he isn't supposed to talk to her. She notices the pile of hay and asks Lennie what happened to the puppy. He explains that the puppy pretended it was going to bite him, so Lennie pretended he was going to smack it, then he did, and it died. Lennie is upset because he thinks George won't let him take care of the rabbits now he has killed the pup.   
Curley's wife starts confiding in Lennie how she was once told she could be in the movies, but she thought her mom hid the letter that was supposed to arrive from the agent. She then ran out and married Curley just to escape her mother even though she doesn't really like Curley. Lennie admits that he likes to pet soft things, so Curley's wife suggests feeling her hair. Soon Lennie is pounding his big hands down her head, and she's worried he's going to mess her hair up, so she shouts at him to stop.  
Lennie becomes scared and covers her mouth to get her to be quiet. Being held tight to Lennie panics Curley's wife even more, so she struggles to get loose. Her struggling and continued screaming scares Lennie even more, so he shakes her. With one of his shakes he turns her head and accidentally breaks her neck. He drops her to the ground and runs toward the brush where George told him to hide if he ever got into trouble again.  
 Candy comes in and sees her dead…he runs to get George. They both guess who did it. George tells Candy to run out and tell the other men, and he'll run in with them as if he doesn't know what happened so that the guys won't think he had anything to do with it. More angry than upset, Curley also quickly realises who did it and wants revenge, gathering to men to go and shoot Lennie.

George purposely misleads the group by sending them in the opposite direction of where he suspects Lennie has gone. Carlson tells the group that his gun is missing, so they assume that Lennie stole it, which is another reason why Curley decides they need to shoot him once they find him. Candy waits behind, sad and angry that his dream, along with George and Lennie’s, of a nice little farm, is gone.

**Read through the extract below then answer these questions:**

1. What is Lennie scared of?

2. Why is Curley’s Wife angry?

3. Where have we heard ‘flopped like a fish before’?

4. What language technique is ‘flopped like a fish’?

Lennie’s big fingers fell to stroking her hair.

“Don’t you muss it up,” she said.

Lennie said, “Oh! That’s nice,” and he stroked harder. “Oh, that’s nice.”

“Look out, now, you’ll muss it.” And then she cried angrily, “You stop it now, you’ll mess it all up.” She jerked her head sideways, and Lennie’s fingers closed on her hair and hung on. “Let go,” she cried. “You let go!”

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 and she writhed to be free; and from under Lennie’s hand came a muffled screaming. Lennie began to cry with fright. “Oh! Please don’t do none of that,” he begged. “George gonna say I done a bad thing. He ain’t gonna let me tend no rabbits.” He moved his hand a little and her hoarse cry came out. Then Lennie grew angry. “Now don’t,” he said. “I don’t want you to yell. You gonna get me in trouble jus’ like George says you will. Now don’t you do that.” And she continued to struggle, and her eyes were wild with terror. He shook her then, and he was angry with her. “Don’t you go yellin’,” he said, and he shook her; and her body flopped like a fish. And then she was still, for Lennie had broken her neck.

**Even though Lennie is the attacker here, he is still described as scared-he doesn’t realise how strong he is or think about what could happen, he just doesn’t want to get told off.**

**Curley’s Wife is the victim here but the language used to describe her actions is aggressive and violent, like she has done something wrong.**

**We have heard the simile ‘flopped like a fish’ before, when Curley was attacked by Lennie. It shows how much power is in Lennie’s strength, the way he can kill so easily without meaning any real harm.**

**Analytical paragraph: How does the writer use language for effect during this passage?**

**Model answer:**

Language is used to shock the reader in this passage. Curley’s Wife’s eyes are described as ‘wild with terror’. In other words, she looks very scared. More specifically, the word ‘wild’ sounds like an animal, making her seem like prey under attack. The reader may feel shocked by this passage as it is so violent.

**Your turn (at least two paragraphs)…**

**Chapter 6 summary**

The final chapter begins with Lennie waiting in the brush for George to arrive. He is so upset that he hallucinates. First, he sees his Aunt Clara, who has been dead for years, telling him off. Then she disappears and a giant rabbit appears before Lennie's eyes, telling him that George is going to be mad at him and he's going to beat him up.

George comes and comforts Lennie, telling him what he has done doesn't matter and that they can still get their farm. George hears the sound of men in the distance. He makes Lennie look across the river so he can imagine the farm as George describes it to comfort him. As he describes the farm, George takes Carlson's gun out of his jacket. He tells Lennie that he's not mad and that they're going to go to that farm really soon, and then he shoots Lennie right in the back of the head.

The men come up and see Lennie lying dead on the ground. Slim understands what George did because he knows about their history together, but the other men want to know what happened. George lies and says that Lennie had stolen the gun, so George had to wrestle it away from him and then shot him in self defence.

The story ends where it began in the clearing, and George’s dream is over, because without Lennie George is no different from any of the other workers who travel alone and have no one to care about them.

**This story has a ‘cyclical structure’. This means that the story goes in a cycle, with George in the same position as he was at the start; travelling from place to place and no closer to his dream of a farm. Sadly, the reader is left with the impression he will never now achieve it, as the dream was his and Lennie’s, and now Lennie is dead George will just continue to travel for work.**

**For each of the characters, write it the grid what their life was like at the beginning of the novella, in the middle (did it start to change?) and what it is like at the end. The first one is done for you.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Life at the beginning** | **Life in the middle** | **Life at the end** |
| Lennie | safe and happy with George-he had a dream | happy as he got a puppy and thought his dream was coming true very soon | dead |
| George |  |  |  |
| Curley |  |  |  |
| Curley’s Wife |  |  |  |
| Candy |  |  |  |
| Crooks |  |  |  |

**Plenary**

**Choose one character and write a couple of paragraphs about ‘what happened next’. Did George meet a woman and get married? Did Crooks get a job where he wasn’t treated badly? You decide!**