**Term 6 Week 3 Lesson 1 Year 8-OMAM Chapter 2 analysis**

**Do Now:**

1. What were workers who moved from place to place known as?
2. What type of people does Curley pick fights with?
3. Who says Curley’s Wife is a ‘tart’?
4. Why does he think this?
5. How does Lennie feel about the ranch?

In Chapter 2 we met Curley’s Wife. She is a massively important character, yet we never find out her name, she is always called ‘Curley’s Wife’ by the men. In this extract, the description of Curley’s Wife makes her seem ‘dangerous’ and extremely flirty.

**Read through the extract and then answer the questions**

**‘rouge’ is red…she wears red on her lips, nails and shoes. Red is the colour of danger, but also passion…Curley’s Wife is shown as being sexy yet dangerous.**

**Curley’s Wife wears heavy make-up and a dress and fancy shoes. This is inappropriate for the farm, and shows she wants attention and to look pretty rather than help out.**

**Ostriches can’t fly-just like Curley’s Wife can’t ‘fly away’ from the farm. Ostriches also bury their head in the sand when there is a problem…just like Curley’s Wife ignores the fact that her life is miserable.**

**She leans her body forward in a flirty way to get the men’s attention and make them look at her body.**

A girl was standing there looking in. She had full, rouged lips and wide-spaced eyes, heavily made up. Her fingernails were red. Her hair hung in little rolled clusters, like sausages. She wore a cotton house dress and red mules, on the insteps of which were little bouquets of red ostrich feathers. ‘I’m lookin’ for Curley,’ she said. Her voice had a nasal, brittle quality. George looked away from her and then back. ‘He was here a minute ago, but he went.’

‘Oh!’ She put her hands behind her back and leaned against the door frame so that her body was thrown forward. ‘You’re the new fellas that just come, ain’t ya?’

‘Yeah.’

Lennie’s eyes moved down her body, and though she did not seem to be looking at Lennie she bridled a little. She looked at her fingernails. ‘Sometimes Curley’s in here,’ she explained. George said brusquely, ‘Well, he ain’t now.’

‘If he ain’t, I guess I better look someplace else,’ she said playfully.

**George is rude to Curley’s Wife and shows no interest in the conversation. ‘Brusquely’ means ‘bluntly’ or ‘roughly’.**

1. What does the colour red suggest about Curley’s Wife?
2. Why is the way she’s dressed inappropriate or odd?
3. Why are the ostrich feathers interesting?
4. How does George respond to her friendly conversation?

**Analytical paragraph: How does Steinbeck present the character of Curley’s Wife in the extract?**

**Model answer:**

Curley’s Wife is shown to be flirty and doesn’t fit in on the ranch. She wears a dress and ‘mules’ with ‘ostrich feathers’ on them. In other words, she is dressed up in fancy clothes and shoes, completely inappropriate for life on the ranch. More specifically, the ‘ostrich feathers’ could represent how she feels about her life; trapped on the ranch like an ostrich, unable to ‘fly’ away.

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