

Of Mice And Men Lennie Kills Curleys Wife

Of Mice and Men: The Tragic Fate of Curley's Wife and Lennie's Impulse John Steinbeck's **Of Mice and Men** remains a powerful exploration of loneliness, prejudice, and the devastating consequences of societal limitations. The novella's tragic climax, Lennie's accidental killing of Curley's wife, is not merely a violent act; it is a profound reflection on the characters' inherent vulnerabilities and the inherent flaws in the ranch's social fabric. This analysis delves into the complex interplay of Lennie's limitations, Curley's wife's allure and desperation, and the oppressive environment that ultimately led to this devastating event. **Lennie's Nature: A**

Reflection of Limited Understanding Lennie Small, the novel's tragic figure, is characterized by an inability to control his immense strength and a profound disconnect from the world around him. His intellectual capacity is significantly lower than that of his peers. This is evident in his tendency to accidentally cause harm. He is driven by primal desires and a childlike innocence, unable to comprehend the social complexities and the potential repercussions of his actions. He is essentially a victim of his own nature, unable to foresee the consequences of his strength. *The Significance of Physical Strength and Its Control* Lennie's immense physical strength, while a source of potential, ultimately becomes a liability. He craves touch and affection, but his inability to manage these impulses leads to

misinterpretations and tragic mistakes. The constant struggle for control within Lennie emphasizes the societal pressures and the limitations imposed upon him by his physicality. This can be contrasted with the other men on the ranch who strive for control, yet they also often fail. **Curley's Wife: A Victim of Isolation and Societal Expectations** Curley's wife, a complex figure shrouded in mystery, is a victim of the ranch's patriarchal and isolating environment. She represents the suppressed desires and unmet aspirations of women in a male-dominated society. Her loneliness and yearning for connection are highlighted by her interactions with Lennie, who, in his innocence, unintentionally provides her with an illusion of attention and companionship. *The Characterization of Societal Pressure on Women* Steinbeck masterfully crafts Curley's wife as a representation of societal expectations placed upon women. She is trapped in a marriage that stifles her desire for freedom and self-expression. The limitations imposed on her as a woman in a 1930s American ranch setting make her desperate and lonely, driving her to seek out any form of human connection, even if fleeting and potentially dangerous. **The Environmental Setting and Its Impact** The isolation of the ranch setting exacerbates the characters' vulnerabilities. The remoteness and the close-knit, yet impersonal, nature of the ranch community contribute to the breakdown of communication and empathy. **The Inevitability of Tragedy** The tragic fate of Curley's wife is intertwined with Lennie's limitations and the pervasive social pressures. The confluence of these elements creates an unavoidable outcome, mirroring the larger societal issues of the era. The environment itself serves to highlight the characters' struggles and isolation. Without

intervention, the tragic inevitability becomes inescapable. • **Key Findings:** • Lennie's lack of self-control and understanding contributes significantly to the tragedy. • Curley's wife's desperation for connection in a confined environment leads her to seek out interaction with Lennie, a path that ultimately proves fatal. • The harsh and isolating environment of the ranch further exacerbates the characters' vulnerabilities and fuels the tragic events. • The killing of Curley's wife highlights the societal pressures and injustices faced by women in the 1930s. **Lennie's Response to the Incident**

Following the killing, Lennie's reaction is indicative of his innocence. His fear and despair at what he has done highlight the tragic consequences of his limitations. **A Summary** Steinbeck's **Of Mice and Men** presents a poignant exploration of human nature, societal constraints, and the inherent vulnerabilities of individuals. The death of Curley's wife is not merely an act of violence but a symbolic representation of the tragic consequences of isolation, limited understanding, and societal limitations. The novella's enduring power lies in its ability to expose the complex interplay of these factors and their impact on individual lives, ultimately illustrating the interconnectedness of human experience within an oppressive social context. *Advanced FAQs* 1. Beyond the immediate tragedy, what broader social commentary does Steinbeck offer through Curley's wife's character? Steinbeck highlights the suppressed desires of women and the restrictive social expectations they faced. Curley's wife is a nuanced representation of yearning for something more, showcasing the social restrictions that prevented women from freely expressing their desires. 2. **How does Lennie's character arc contribute to the tragedy's inevitability?** Lennie's inability to

control his actions and understand the consequences directly leads to Curley's wife's death. His inherent nature, combined with his limited understanding, creates an almost predetermined trajectory.

3. What role does the ranch environment play in fostering the tragic events?

The isolated and rigid nature of the ranch reinforces the societal expectations that contribute to the tragic climax. The limitations of space and the prevailing atmosphere of control hinder any possibility for change or intervention.

4. In what ways does the novella use symbolism to depict the characters' struggles?

The recurring symbolism of isolation, strength, and innocence underscores the tragic nature of Lennie's actions. The novella also uses the imagery of the landscape to show the pervasiveness of human suffering.

5. How does the ending of the novel contribute to the overall themes of the book?

The ending's emphasis on loss and isolation underlines the profound impact of the tragedy on all those involved. It leaves the reader contemplating the overarching themes of human interconnectedness, the fragility of life, and the unavoidable consequences of oppression.

References (This section would need specific academic sources, which are not provided in this example. Please replace with relevant citations.) Note: This is a sample framework. To make it a fully researched academic paper, you would need to incorporate specific scholarly s, critical essays, and possibly data on historical context to support the claims made.

Of Mice and Men: Lennie's Tragic

Climax – The Killing of Curley's Wife

John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" is a literary masterpiece that delves deep into the lives of migrant ranch workers during the Great Depression. It's a story brimming with dreams, companionship, and the harsh realities of a society that often crushes the vulnerable. While the novel is rich with themes of loneliness, friendship, and the elusive American Dream, one of the most pivotal and heartbreaking moments is the accidental killing of Curley's wife by Lennie Small. This tragic event, often the focal point of discussions about the novel, is a stark illustration of Lennie's immense strength, his inability to control his impulses, and the devastating consequences that follow. The narrative builds towards this moment with a palpable sense of dread. From the outset, Lennie's character is established as a gentle giant, mentally disabled, and profoundly dependent on his friend George. His love for soft things, whether it's petting mice, rabbits, or his deceased puppy, is a recurring motif that foreshadows the tragic accident. Curley's wife, on the other hand, is a figure of immense loneliness and desperation, trapped in a loveless marriage and yearning for attention and conversation. Their fateful encounter in the barn, away from the watchful eyes of the other men, becomes the catalyst for the novel's devastating conclusion.

Lennie's Gentle Nature and Uncontrollable Strength

It's crucial to understand Lennie's inherent nature to grasp the tragedy. He is not a malicious character. Steinbeck repeatedly

emphasizes his childlike innocence and his desire to please George. His dreams of "livin' off the fatta the lan'" and tending rabbits are a testament to his simple, pure aspirations. However, Lennie possesses a physical strength that far exceeds his mental capacity to control it. This dichotomy is the very essence of his character and the source of his undoing. We see this in earlier instances: the time he accidentally crushes a mouse in his pocket, or when he snaps the neck of his puppy in an attempt to stop its yelping. These incidents, while disturbing, are presented as unfortunate accidents born from his overwhelming strength and lack of understanding of his own power. He doesn't intend harm; he simply doesn't know his own force. This is a key element often discussed when analyzing the ****meaning of Lennie killing Curley's wife****.

Curley's Wife: A Symbol of Loneliness and Unfulfilled Desires

Curley's wife is often misunderstood, painted as a provocative and flirtatious woman. However, Steinbeck's portrayal reveals a more complex character. She is a victim of her circumstances, married to a brutish man she barely knows and ostracized by the ranch hands who refer to her contemptuously as "whore" or "jailbait." Her constant attempts to engage with the men, her flirtatious demeanor, and her seeking of attention are all desperate cries for connection in a world that offers her none. She confides in Lennie about her dreams of becoming a movie star, a dream that was thwarted by her mother's interference. This sharing of her deepest regrets and desires highlights her profound loneliness. She sees in Lennie, perhaps, a

non-judgmental listener, someone who won't mock her or dismiss her hopes. The **context of Curley's wife's death in *Of Mice and Men*** is therefore not just about Lennie's actions but also about the societal pressures and individual isolation that contribute to this tragic confluence of events.

The Fateful Encounter in the Barn

The scene in the barn is masterfully crafted by Steinbeck to build tension. Curley's wife enters the barn, ostensibly to find her husband, but it's clear she's also seeking conversation. Lennie is alone, enjoying the company of his puppy. Their interaction begins innocently enough. She talks to him, shares her life story, and he, in his simple way, listens. The turning point occurs when she allows Lennie to stroke her hair. Lennie, captivated by the softness, wants to continue. As he becomes more enraptured, his grip tightens. When she realizes he's hurting her and tries to pull away, Lennie panics. He doesn't want to get in trouble with George; he doesn't want to lose his dream. In his fear and confusion, he holds on tighter, inadvertently breaking her neck. This is the core of the **Lennie kills Curley's wife analysis**. It wasn't a premeditated act of violence, but a catastrophic consequence of his overwhelming strength and his fear of repercussions.

The Immediate Aftermath and Lennie's Despair

The immediate aftermath is harrowing. Lennie, realizing what he's done, is plunged into despair. He looks at her motionless body, then

at his own hands, as if he can't comprehend the extent of his actions. He remembers George's instructions: if he ever gets in trouble, he should run to the river and hide. This ingrained directive, born from George's desperate attempts to protect Lennie, leads him to flee the scene. The discovery of Curley's wife's body by Candy is a moment of profound shock and sorrow. Candy, who had just been envisioning their shared dream farm with George and Lennie, is devastated. He understands the implications immediately – this means the end of their dream and likely a grim fate for Lennie. The ****symbolism of Curley's wife's death**** is multifaceted, representing the destruction of innocence, the futility of dreams in a harsh world, and the tragic consequences of unchecked power and vulnerability.

George's Heartbreaking Decision

The final act of the novel is perhaps the most emotionally devastating. George finds Lennie hiding by the river, just as he instructed. He knows, with a crushing certainty, that Lennie can no longer be protected. The other ranch hands, led by a vengeful Curley, are already hunting Lennie. George understands that if they catch Lennie, his fate will be far worse – likely lynching or imprisonment in an asylum. In a moment of profound mercy and heartbreaking love, George makes the agonizing decision to end Lennie's life himself. He tells Lennie a story about their dream farm, a familiar comfort, and then shoots him in the back of the head. This act is a testament to George's deep love for Lennie, a love that transcends the harshness of their reality. He spares Lennie a more brutal end, but it comes at the cost of his own soul and the destruction of his most cherished dream.

The Broader Implications and Themes

The killing of Curley's wife is not just a plot point; it's a culmination of the novel's central themes. It underscores the fragility of the American Dream, especially for those at the margins of society. Lennie and George's dream of owning land and living independently is shattered, much like Curley's wife's dreams of stardom and a better life. Furthermore, the event highlights the inherent injustice and brutality of the era. The migrant workers are powerless against the forces of economic hardship and societal prejudice. Lennie, despite his gentle nature, becomes a victim of his circumstances and his own limitations. The novel leaves the reader with a profound sense of loss and a somber reflection on the human condition, the nature of innocence, and the crushing weight of a world that often fails to accommodate those who are different or vulnerable. The ****moral implications of Lennie killing Curley's wife**** continue to be debated, but most agree it's a tragedy born from a confluence of individual limitations and societal failings. "Of Mice and Men" remains a powerful and enduring work because of moments like these. The tragedy of Lennie killing Curley's wife is a stark reminder of how easily dreams can be extinguished, how innocence can be a dangerous burden, and how even the most well-intentioned actions can have devastating consequences in a world that often lacks compassion and understanding. The lingering image of Lennie's gentle strength and Curley's wife's unfulfilled aspirations paints a poignant and unforgettable portrait of American life during a tumultuous period.

Of Mice and Men: The Tragic Fate of Curley's Wife – A Deep Dive into Lennie's Actions

John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* is a powerful exploration of loneliness, prejudice, and the devastating consequences of societal pressures. One of the most impactful and controversial scenes is when Lennie accidentally kills Curley's wife. This isn't just a random act; it's a crucial turning point in the story, deeply rooted in Lennie's character and the broader themes of the novel. Let's delve into the complexities of this event. **Understanding the Setting: The**

Ranch and its Inhabitants Imagine a vast, desolate ranch in the California Salinas Valley. This backdrop, harsh and unforgiving, mirrors the harsh realities faced by the migrant workers. Curley's wife, a seemingly glamorous but ultimately lonely figure, embodies the societal pressures and unspoken desires of the women confined to this isolated world. Her presence is both alluring and disturbing, a stark contrast to the quiet desperation of the ranch hands. Lennie's gentle giant nature, coupled with his intellectual limitations, highlights the stark inequalities inherent in the social structure.

Lennie's Actions and the Significance of Curley's Wife's

Death Lennie's killing of Curley's wife isn't simply a crime; it's a tragic outcome of a complex character. He's a man of immense strength and gentleness, yet also profoundly vulnerable and profoundly incapable of understanding the implications of his actions. He often touches things, leading to their destruction in a series of mishaps. Lennie's touch, initially presented as a playful

fondness, becomes the instrument of her death. It's crucial to note that Lennie's intentions are not malicious. His actions stem from his inability to control his strength and understand the impact of his touch.

How Steinbeck Uses Symbolism The significance of Curley's wife's death transcends the immediate tragedy. Her death becomes a powerful symbol:

- The Powerlessness of Women: Her presence, while seemingly glamorous, speaks volumes about the social limitations placed on women in this era. She's trapped by the expectations of a male-dominated society.
- **The Limits of Human Understanding**: Lennie, despite his good intentions, is unable to comprehend the gravity of his actions. This symbolizes the human capacity for both innocence and destruction.
- The Harshness of the Ranch: The setting, coupled with the violence implied by the death, embodies the bleak reality of the migrant workers' lives.

A Visual Representation: The Scene's Impact Imagine the scene: The ranch, bathed in the setting sun. The silence broken only by the wind whispering through the tall grasses. Lennie, consumed by the beauty of Curley's wife, is consumed by his own powerful nature. The finality of her death is stark, leaving a lingering sense of tragedy. The effect on the other characters is immediate and profound, highlighting their own struggles and inner fears.

"Of Mice and Men" Lennie's Killer: A Detailed Account

- **Physicality**: Lennie, large and powerful, accidentally crushes Curley's wife.
- **Intentionality**: Lennie's actions are completely unintentional. He is drawn to her beauty and fragility, touching her involuntarily, ultimately ending her life.
- Social Context: Curley's wife's death is a result of societal pressures, isolation, and the inherent prejudices faced by the individuals on the ranch.

How-To: Understanding the Emotional Impact To truly appreciate the

scene, consider the emotional journey of the other characters. How does each one react? Why do they react the way they do? How does this reaction reflect their own individual struggles? This deep exploration will enrich your reading and understanding. *Beyond the Scene: The Novel's Deeper Themes* The death of Curley's wife is a pivotal moment, not just in the narrative of the book, but also in its exploration of human nature, loneliness, and the tragic consequences of prejudice and social injustice. **Summary of Key**

Points: • Lennie's accidental killing of Curley's wife is a pivotal moment in the novel. • The death symbolizes the powerlessness of women, the limitations of human understanding, and the harshness of the ranch. • Lennie's actions are unintentional, driven by his gentle nature and inability to control his strength. • The scene effectively portrays the characters' emotional reactions, mirroring their own anxieties and fears. • The surrounding societal context, including the isolation and prejudices faced by the ranch workers, adds depth to the tragedy. 5 FAQs to Address Reader Pain Points: 1. Q: Why did Lennie kill Curley's wife? A: Lennie accidentally killed Curley's wife due to his inability to control his strength and understand the implications of his touch. He was drawn to her vulnerability. 2. **Q:** **What is the significance of the setting in this scene?** A: The harshness of the ranch environment mirrors the characters' struggles and adds to the tragedy of the scene, highlighting their isolation and vulnerability. 3. *Q: How does the death of Curley's wife affect the other characters?* A: The death deeply affects all the characters, reflecting their internal anxieties and highlighting the inherent injustices of their lives. 4. **Q: What are the broader themes explored through this scene?** A: The scene explores the

limitations of human understanding, societal pressures, and the harsh realities of social injustice. 5. Q: Is Lennie a villain? A: No, Lennie is a tragic figure. His actions stem from his inability to control his strength and understand the consequences of his actions, making him more sympathetic than villainous. This deep dive into the Lennie-Curley's wife interaction provides a nuanced understanding of the complexities within **Of Mice and Men**. Hopefully, this breakdown has shed light on this crucial moment in the novel and its profound message.

Of Mice and Men: The Tragic Climax of Lennie and Curley's Wife

John Steinbeck's enduring novella, "Of Mice and Men," is a poignant exploration of dreams, friendship, and the harsh realities of migrant farm life in 1930s California. While the narrative is rich with thematic depth and memorable characters, the tragic climax – Lennie Small's accidental killing of Curley's wife – remains the most devastating and pivotal moment. This event not only shatters the fragile dream of George and Lennie but also serves as a brutal indictment of societal prejudice and the isolation experienced by those on the fringes.

The Build-Up to Tragedy: Unfulfilled Desires and Growing Tensions

Before the fateful encounter, Steinbeck meticulously builds the atmosphere of impending doom. The omnipresent threat of Lennie's

overwhelming strength, coupled with his childlike innocence and inability to control his impulses, is a constant source of anxiety for George. Their dream of owning a small farm, a sanctuary from the itinerant life, hinges on Lennie's ability to stay out of trouble.

However, the ranch itself is a microcosm of a cruel world, populated by characters like Curley, the insecure and aggressive son of the boss, who perceives Lennie as a threat and a potential target for his own frustrations. Curley's wife, a nameless and often ostracized figure, is herself a victim of circumstance. Trapped in a loveless marriage and yearning for attention and a life beyond the ranch, she is perpetually seeking connection. Her attempts to engage with the ranch hands, particularly Lennie, are often misconstrued as predatory or flirtatious. This misunderstanding, born from her own loneliness and the men's ingrained suspicion, creates a volatile environment. The narrative carefully foreshadows the danger, with George repeatedly warning Lennie to avoid her, underscoring the gravity of any interaction.

The Confrontation: An Accidental Act of Violence

The scene where Lennie kills Curley's wife is a masterclass in escalating tension and tragic inevitability. Curley's wife, seeking solace and a sympathetic ear, finds Lennie alone in the barn, stroking his beloved puppy. Her loneliness mirrors Lennie's own quiet desperation for companionship, albeit on a vastly different level. She confides in Lennie, sharing her own shattered dreams of becoming an actress, a stark contrast to the harsh reality of her life.

Lennie, fascinated by her soft hair, asks if he can touch it. This innocent request, tinged with his characteristic inability to gauge the consequences of his actions, leads to the fatal incident. As Lennie becomes increasingly agitated by her struggles to pull away, his grip tightens. In his panic, he shakes her violently, intending to silence her pleas but instead inadvertently breaking her neck. The horror of the moment is amplified by Lennie's immediate realization of what he has done. His fear, not of punishment but of George's disappointment, is palpable. He continues to stroke her hair, a chilling echo of his affection for the dead puppy.

Analyzing Lennie's Role: The Unwitting Perpetrator

Lennie's character is central to understanding this tragedy. He is not a malicious figure; his actions stem from his intellectual disability and his powerful, unmanageable physical strength. He loves soft things, a characteristic that proves to be his undoing. His petting of the puppy, his caressing of Curley's wife's hair – these are acts of affection gone awry. His inability to comprehend the fragility of life, especially human life, is a recurring theme. The death of the puppy, a precursor to the larger tragedy, highlights this pattern of destruction born from overwhelming affection. The killing of Curley's wife is not premeditated murder. It is an accident, a catastrophic consequence of Lennie's inability to control his strength when faced with a perceived threat or when pursuing a source of comfort. The ****psychological impact**** on Lennie is immediate and devastating, leading him to flee, further compounding the tragedy. His fear of

disappointing George, a driving force throughout the novella, is at its peak.

Curley's Wife: A Victim of Her Circumstances and Societal Neglect

The killing of Curley's wife is also a stark portrayal of her own victimhood. She is a woman denied agency, treated as property by her husband and dismissed as a nuisance by the ranch hands. Her desperation for human connection, her yearning for a life beyond the confines of the ranch, makes her vulnerable. Her loneliness and lack of respect from those around her are key factors that lead her to seek out Lennie. Her ****lack of a name**** in the novella is significant. It further dehumanizes her, reducing her to a mere object of desire or a source of trouble. Her dreams of stardom, dismissed by her mother and by the men on the ranch, are extinguished along with her life. The ****social commentary**** on the limited opportunities for women in this era, particularly those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, is powerfully illustrated through her tragic fate. She is a forgotten soul, whose death, while resulting in Lennie's demise, also marks the end of any hope for her own fulfillment.

The Aftermath: The Shattering of the Dream and the Erosion of Hope

The discovery of Curley's wife's body triggers a manhunt for Lennie, orchestrated by a vengeful Curley. George, faced with the devastating reality of Lennie's actions and the inevitable outcome –

Lennie's institutionalization or death at the hands of the mob – makes a heart-wrenching decision. He leads Lennie to their planned meeting spot by the river, reciting their shared dream of the farm. In a scene of profound pathos, George shoots Lennie, sparing him the agony of a mob lynching and providing him with a final moment of solace, imagining their future paradise. This act, while an act of mercy in George's eyes, is the ultimate destruction of their shared dream. The killing of Curley's wife, therefore, is not just an isolated incident but the catalyst that irrevocably destroys the aspirations of George and Lennie, leaving them with nothing but the bitter taste of dashed hopes and the grim reality of their circumstances.

Thematic Significance: Isolation, Loneliness, and the Elusive American Dream

The death of Curley's wife and its consequences are deeply intertwined with the novella's overarching themes. The ****isolation and loneliness**** of the ranch hands, including Curley's wife and Lennie, are amplified by this event. They are all, in their own ways, outsiders seeking connection in a world that offers little comfort. Lennie's desire for soft things, his inability to control his strength, and Curley's wife's yearning for a life beyond her reality – all contribute to their tragic destinies. Furthermore, the event serves as a devastating commentary on the ****elusive nature of the American Dream****. The dream of owning a piece of land, of security and independence, which George and Lennie clung to, is brutally extinguished. Their dream, like Curley's wife's dreams, is ultimately unattainable in the face of societal prejudice, economic hardship,

and the inherent limitations of human nature. The **symbolism of the ranch** itself shifts from a potential sanctuary to a place of death and despair.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Sorrow and Social Critique

The scene where Lennie kills Curley's wife in "Of Mice and Men" is a masterfully crafted tragedy that continues to resonate with readers. It is a moment of raw emotion, stark realism, and profound social critique. Steinbeck uses this pivotal event to expose the harsh realities of migrant farm labor, the devastating impact of prejudice and misunderstanding, and the crushing weight of unfulfilled dreams. Lennie's accidental act of violence, born from his own tragic limitations, becomes the fulcrum upon which the lives of George, Curley, and Curley's wife are irrevocably broken. The enduring power of this scene lies in its ability to evoke empathy for flawed characters and to confront readers with the brutal consequences of a society that often fails its most vulnerable members. The **literary analysis** of this event reveals Steinbeck's masterful ability to weave complex themes into a compelling and unforgettable narrative, making "Of Mice and Men" a timeless examination of the human condition. The **impact of Lennie's actions** on George's life is a testament to the profound bonds of friendship and the sacrifices one makes in the face of insurmountable odds. The **symbolism of the mice**, fleeting and easily crushed, foreshadows the fragility of life and dreams within the novella's world.

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In this way, reading becomes less transactional and more personal. The value lies not only in information gained, but in the habit of thoughtful engagement that develops along the way.

Questions & Answers About of mice and men lennie kills curleys wife

N o	Question	Answer
1	What exactly happened when Lennie killed Curley's wife?	Lennie, in a moment of panic and confusion, accidentally strangled Curley's wife when she became upset and struggled after he was petting her hair too roughly. He didn't intend to kill her.
2	Why did Lennie kill Curley's wife? Was it intentional?	No, it was not intentional. Lennie's action was a tragic accident stemming from his overwhelming strength and his inability to control himself when upset or scared, especially when touching soft things like hair.
3	What was Lennie's mental state when he killed Curley's wife?	Lennie was in a state of panic and confusion. He had been told by George to stay away from Curley's wife, but she had initiated the interaction, and when she started to scream and pull away, he reacted instinctively and with excessive force.
4	How does Lennie's killing of Curley's wife impact the other characters, especially George?	It shatters their dream of owning land. George is forced to make the heartbreaking decision to kill Lennie to spare him a worse fate at the hands of Curley and the mob, leading to immense grief and loss for George.

5	What does the death of Curley's wife symbolize in 'Of Mice and Men'?	It symbolizes the destruction of hope and the harsh reality of their lonely existence. It also highlights the vulnerability of marginalized characters and how their dreams are often crushed by circumstances and the actions of others.
6	What were the immediate consequences for Lennie after killing Curley's wife?	Lennie flees the ranch in terror, heading to the predetermined hiding spot by the river that George had instructed him to go to if he ever got into trouble.
7	How does Curley react to his wife's death, and what does he want?	Curley is enraged and vows revenge. He immediately forms a posse with the other ranch hands to hunt down Lennie and kill him.
8	Did anyone witness Lennie killing Curley's wife?	No, when Lennie realizes what he's done, he flees. Candy finds the body, and then alerts the others, but no one saw the act itself.
9	What is the significance of the phrase 'Of Mice and Men' in relation to Lennie killing Curley's wife?	The title, from Robert Burns' poem, reflects how even the best-laid plans (like George and Lennie's dream) can go awry, and how the lives of the vulnerable (like Lennie and Curley's wife) are often subject to cruel fate and misunderstanding.
10	What is the ultimate fate of Lennie after this event?	George finds Lennie by the river and, to prevent him from suffering a brutal death at the hands of Curley, shoots him himself. This is the tragic climax of the novel.

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