

Crooks

Event Description	Key Quotations	Theme(s)	Analysis	Historical Context
Introduction of Crooks' living quarters in the barn	"Crooks, the Negro stable buck, had his bunk..."	Loneliness, Discrimination	The separate living arrangement highlights Crooks' isolation from the other workers due to racial discrimination, emphasizing his loneliness.	Segregation was common in 1930s America, and people of colour were often treated as inferior, resulting in separate living quarters and facilities.
Crooks discusses his isolation due to racial discrimination	"I ain't wanted in the bunkhouse, and you ain't wanted in my room."	Loneliness, Violence, Discrimination	This statement shows how Crooks tries to assert some control over his personal space, while also revealing the pain and resentment he feels due to the enforced segregation.	Racial discrimination was widespread in the 1930s, and this quote reflects the attitudes of that time, resulting in Crooks' need to protect his personal space.
Crooks tells Lennie about his childhood and how he played with white kids	"I remember when I was a little kid..."	Loneliness, Discrimination	The memory of his childhood and interacting with white children without prejudice highlights how loneliness has been imposed on him as an adult due to societal attitudes.	Despite some moments of racial harmony in his childhood, Crooks' experiences reflect the increasing racial divide in America during the 1930s.
Crooks taunts Lennie about George leaving him	"S'pose George don't come back no more..."	Loneliness, Dreams, Discrimination	Crooks projects his own feelings of loneliness onto Lennie in this moment, suggesting that Lennie's worst fear might come true: being abandoned by his only friend.	The Great Depression led to uncertainty and instability in the 1930s, making it difficult for individuals like Crooks to form lasting connections with others.
Crooks talks about his dream of owning a piece of land and being independent	"If I... had a little piece of my own..."	Dreams, Loneliness, Discrimination	Crooks' dream of independence reflects his longing for freedom from the oppressive environment he lives in, showcasing his hope for a life free from loneliness and discrimination.	The American Dream was a common aspiration during the 1930s, with many people hoping for a better life despite the challenges of the Great Depression.
Crooks withdraws his offer to join Lennie, George, and Candy's dream of a farm	"I wouldn't want to go no place like that..."	Dreams, Loneliness, Discrimination	Crooks' withdrawal from the dream indicates his realization that the dream may be unattainable and that it is safer for him to stay isolated to avoid further disappointment.	The harsh realities of the 1930s, including discrimination and poverty, often made it difficult for people like Crooks to attain their dreams.
Crooks' vulnerability is exposed when Curley's wife threatens him	"Listen, Nigger...I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain't even funny."	Violence, Loneliness, Discrimination	Curley's wife's threat showcases the power dynamics in play and the violence Crooks faces due to his race. It also reinforces the theme of loneliness	Despite being suffering from discrimination herself, Curley's wife is quick to exert control over Crooks. Society was crumbling and the 'dog eat dog'/survival of the fittest mentality at the time prompted terrible treatment of people to be the social norm.

Candy

Event No.	Event Description	Key Quotations	Theme(s)	Analysis	Historical Context
1	Introduction of Candy and his old dog	"The old man came slowly into the room..."	Loneliness, Discrimination	Candy's age and disability are introduced, emphasizing his vulnerability and isolation among the younger and able-bodied workers.	The Great Depression left many older workers struggling to find employment and maintain their livelihoods, making them more susceptible to loneliness and discrimination.
2	Candy's dog is killed by Carlson	"I wisht somebody'd shoot me if I get old an' a cripple."	Violence, Loneliness, Discrimination	The killing of Candy's dog highlights the harshness of life on the ranch, foreshadowing future events, and further isolates Candy, taking away his closest companion.	The economic hardship of the 1930s led to the view that weak or old animals and humans were a burden and should be disposed of, reflecting the cruelty of the time.
3	Candy overhears George and Lennie discussing their dream	"I been around here a long time..."	Dreams, Loneliness	Candy becomes interested in George and Lennie's dream, seeing it as a chance for a better life and an escape from the loneliness he experiences on the ranch.	The American Dream was a common aspiration in the 1930s, with many people seeking a better life and independence despite the challenges posed by the Great Depression.
4	Candy offers his life savings to join George and Lennie's dream	"I'd make a will an' leave my share to you guys..."	Dreams, Loneliness, Discrimination	Candy's eagerness to join George and Lennie's dream demonstrates his desperation for companionship and a sense of belonging, as well as his hope for a more dignified life.	During the 1930s, many people were desperate for a better life, often pooling their resources and working together to try and achieve their dreams in the face of adversity.
5	Candy confronts Curley's wife after she threatens Crooks	"You let this guy alone..."	Violence, Discrimination	Candy stands up to Curley's wife, attempting to protect Crooks from her threats, highlighting Candy's moral compass and empathy for others in vulnerable positions.	This event underscores the various forms of discrimination prevalent during the 1930s, with Candy recognizing the unfair treatment faced by Crooks due to his race.
6	Candy discovers Curley's wife's body and tells George	"You an' me can get that little place, can't we, George?"	Dreams, Loneliness	Despite the tragic event, Candy clings to the hope of achieving the dream with George, revealing his deep-seated loneliness and desperate desire for a better life.	The uncertainty and despair of the 1930s made it difficult for people like Candy to let go of their dreams, even when confronted with seemingly insurmountable obstacles.
7	Candy's realisation that the dream is lost	"I ought to have shot that dog myself..."	Dreams, Loneliness, Violence	Candy's regret about not taking responsibility for his dog's death parallels the loss of the dream, as he comes to terms with the harsh reality that their plan will not come to fruition.	The harsh realities of the 1930s often led to the shattering of dreams, as individuals like Candy faced setbacks and obstacles that made their aspirations difficult to achieve.

Curley's wife

Event No.	Event Description	Key Quotations	Theme(s)	Analysis	Historical Context
1	Introduction of Curley's wife	"A girl was standing there looking in."	Discrimination, Loneliness	Curley's wife is introduced as an object of desire and suspicion, highlighting the discrimination she faces as the only woman on the ranch.	Women in the 1930s were often marginalized and objectified, limiting their roles and reinforcing their isolation in male-dominated environments.
2	Curley's wife complains about her marriage	"I don't like Curley. He ain't a nice fella."	Loneliness, Violence	Her dissatisfaction with her marriage to Curley reveals her own loneliness and hints at the potential violence within their relationship.	The 1930s were a time of traditional gender roles, with women often trapped in unhappy marriages and limited in their opportunities for independence.
3	Curley's wife's dream of being a movie star	"I coulda been in the movies... an' had nice clothes."	Dreams, Discrimination	Her dream of becoming a movie star reflects her desire for a better life and an escape from her current situation, which is limited by her gender and social status.	The 1930s was the era of Hollywood's Golden Age, where many people, especially women, aspired to become famous to escape their difficult circumstances.
4	Curley's wife threatens Crooks	"I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain't even funny."	Violence, Discrimination	The threat she makes against Crooks showcases her own limited power, using her race and social standing as leverage to assert authority over someone with even less power.	Racial and gender-based power dynamics were prevalent in the 1930s, contributing to an environment where those with little power sought to exert control over others.
5	Curley's wife opens up to Lennie about her loneliness	"I never get to talk to nobody. I get awful lonely."	Loneliness, Discrimination	Her admission of loneliness to Lennie emphasizes the isolation she experiences as the only woman on the ranch, limited by societal expectations and her marriage to Curley.	The isolation of women in the 1930s, especially in male-dominated environments, often led to feelings of loneliness and the desire for connection and understanding.
6	Curley's wife's tragic death at the hands of Lennie	"She was very pretty and simple, and her face was sweet and young."	Violence, Loneliness	Curley's wife's death underscores the tragic consequences of her loneliness and her search for connection, resulting in a violent end to her unfulfilled life.	The novella's tragic ending serves as a reflection of the harsh realities of the 1930s, where dreams were often shattered, and violence was an ever-present threat.

George

Event No.	Event Description	Key Quotations	Theme(s)	Analysis	Historical Context
1	Introduction of George and Lennie's relationship	"Lennie, who had been watching, imitated George exactly."	Loneliness, Dreams	The introduction of George and Lennie's relationship showcases the bond between them, providing a sense of companionship in an otherwise lonely environment.	The Great Depression led to many itinerant workers traveling together, seeking employment and sharing dreams of a better life to cope with the harsh realities of the time.
2	George tells Lennie about their dream of owning land	"We're gonna have a little place..."	Dreams, Loneliness	George shares the dream of owning land with Lennie, creating a sense of hope and providing a reason for them to stick together in a difficult and isolating world.	The American Dream was a common aspiration during the 1930s, with many people seeking a better life and independence despite the challenges posed by the Great Depression.
3	George confides in Slim about his past with Lennie	"I ain't got no people. I seen the guys that go around on the ranches alone."	Loneliness, Dreams	George's confession to Slim reveals his understanding of the importance of their companionship, recognizing the loneliness faced by many migrant workers in the 1930s.	The difficult economic circumstances of the time often led to isolation and despair, with companionship being a rare but valuable source of support for many workers.
4	George confronts Curley and defends Lennie	"You won't tell nobody what happened?"	Violence, Discrimination	George's defence of Lennie highlights his role as a protector, ensuring Lennie's safety from the aggressive and discriminatory behaviour of others like Curley.	During the 1930s, vulnerable people, such as those with mental disabilities, often faced discrimination and violence, making the role of a protector crucial in their lives.
5	George, Candy, and Lennie discuss their dream together	"We'd just live there. We'd belong there."	Dreams, Loneliness	George's inclusion of Candy in the dream reinforces his understanding of the importance of companionship, as well as the shared hope for a better life free from loneliness.	The dream of owning land and achieving independence was a common aspiration during the 1930s, uniting people in their hope for a better future.
6	George realizes Lennie's actions have doomed their dream	"I think I knowed from the very first..."	Dreams, Violence, Loneliness	George's realization about Lennie's actions signifies the shattering of their dream, as well as the impending loneliness he will face without Lennie.	The harsh realities of the 1930s often meant that dreams were unattainable, with tragic events and difficult circumstances forcing people to confront the fragility of their hopes.

Lennie

Event No.	Event Description	Key Quotations	Theme(s)	Analysis	Historical Context
1	Introduction of Lennie's childlike nature and dependency on George	"Lennie dabbled his big paw in the water..."	Loneliness, Dreams	Lennie's childlike nature and dependency on George are introduced, emphasizing their unique bond in a world where loneliness prevails.	People with mental disabilities often faced discrimination and isolation in the 1930s, making the support and companionship of others crucial for survival.
2	Lennie accidentally kills the puppy	"He pawed up the hay until it partly covered her."	Violence, Loneliness	Lennie's accidental killing of the puppy foreshadows future events and demonstrates his lack of understanding of his own strength, as well as the consequences of his actions.	The violence Lennie exhibits unintentionally underscores the difficulties faced by those with mental disabilities in understanding and controlling their actions.
3	Lennie's conversation with Curley's wife	"I like to pet nice things."	Loneliness, Discrimination	Lennie's conversation with Curley's wife reveals his vulnerability and innocence, as well as the loneliness experienced by both characters.	During the 1930s, individuals from marginalized groups often found solace in each other's company, despite societal expectations and prejudices.
4	Lennie accidentally kills Curley's wife	"And then she was still, for Lennie had broken her neck."	Violence, Loneliness, Discrimination	Lennie's accidental killing of Curley's wife highlights his inability to control his strength and foreshadows the tragic end of his and George's dream.	The tragedy that unfolds because of Lennie's actions can be seen as a metaphor for the harsh and unpredictable nature of life during the Great Depression.
5	Lennie's hallucination of Aunt Clara and the giant rabbit	"Ever'body gonna be nice to you. Ain't gonna be no more trouble."	Dreams, Loneliness	Lennie's hallucinations reflect his longing for acceptance and understanding, as well as the fragility of the dream he shares with George.	The 1930s were a time of despair and unfulfilled dreams for many, with individuals like Lennie clinging to hope in the face of overwhelming adversity.
6	George finds Lennie at the hiding place near the river	"I done another bad thing."	Violence, Loneliness, Dreams	Lennie's recognition of his wrongdoings highlights his innocence and dependency on George, as well as the tragic consequences of his actions.	In the 1930s, people with mental disabilities often faced harsh consequences for their actions, with few resources or support systems available to help them.

Slim

Event No.	Event Description	Key Quotations	Theme(s)	Analysis	Historical Context
1	Introduction of Slim as a respected figure on the ranch	"Slim's a jerkline skinner. Hell of a nice fella."	Loneliness, Discrimination	Slim's introduction establishes him as a respected figure on the ranch, setting the stage for his role as a confidante and mediator in various conflicts.	During the 1930s, skilled workers like Slim often held positions of authority, offering stability and guidance in the uncertain environment of the Great Depression.
2	Slim lends a sympathetic ear to George's story of his past with Lennie	"You guys travel around together?"	Loneliness, Dreams	Slim's empathy towards George and Lennie's relationship demonstrates his understanding of the importance of companionship in a lonely world.	The Great Depression led to many itinerant workers seeking solace in shared experiences and companionship in order to cope with the harsh realities of the time.
3	Slim supports the decision to put down Candy's old dog	"He ain't no good to himself. Why'n't you shoot him, Candy?"	Violence, Loneliness, Discrimination	Slim's pragmatic view on Candy's dog reflects the harsh realities of ranch life and foreshadows the tragic events that unfold later in the story.	The 1930s were marked by a focus on survival and efficiency, with weak or old animals and humans often seen as burdens to be disposed of.
4	Slim confronts Curley after Lennie's fight with him	"Curley. You got your hand caught in a machine."	Violence, Discrimination	Slim's intervention in the conflict between Curley and Lennie demonstrates his role as a mediator and protector, helping to shield Lennie from further harm.	Slim's actions reflect the need for some individuals to step up and protect those who were vulnerable or faced discrimination during the difficult circumstances of the 1930s.
5	Slim consoles George after the killing of Curley's wife	"You couldn't let him get away. You hadda shoot him."	Violence, Loneliness	Slim's understanding and comfort towards George after Lennie's actions reveals his empathy and the potential for future companionship in the face of tragedy.	The harsh realities of the 1930s often required difficult choices and personal sacrifices, with Slim's understanding representing a rare source of solace and support.