

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the topic, the writer finds the conclusion which deals with the cause and the effect or the way of Lennie, Candy, Curley's Wife and Crooks' loneliness. They are some characters in this novel who feel loneliness. They have some different causes which make them feel loneliness and some of them try to find the way to replace their loneliness.

In this case, Lennie feel loneliness because her aunt who has growing him up is died. It makes that she does not have family anymore. He imagines that he has a better place where he can tend the rabbit.

The second character is Candy. He feels loneliness because he has to lose his dog who always lives with him during at the ranch. He has the dog since the dog is a pup. He joins with Lennie and George to makes their own farm. He imagines that because he wants to enjoy the rest of his life without pressure from the other person.

The third character who feels loneliness is Curley's Wife. Her mother does not allow her to do something she likes. Her husband is very possessive with her and does not care with her. She cannot talk with someone else because Curley will get angry if he knows it. She is killed by Lennie. Curley's wife will not die in that day if she does not feel lonely. Moreover, she comes close to Lennie to reveal her loneliness and causes her death.

Last character is the only black man named Crooks. He feels loneliness because he is black, so there is no one who wants to join with him. It makes him believe that the people who come to his room because they have another reason.

In conclusion, Lennie, Candy, Curley's Wife, and Crooks have loneliness because of some different causes, effect and ways to overcome loneliness. From this study can be reference that there are many causes, effects, types and ways to overcome loneliness.

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SYNOPSIS

The novel, which took place during the Great Depression, began beside the Salinas River near Soledad, California, where two migrant workers, [Lennie](#) Small and [George](#) Milton, are walking on their way to a nearby ranch. They have recently escaped from a farm near Weed where Lennie, a mentally deficient yet gentle man, was wrongly accused of rape when he touched a woman to feel her soft dress.

As they walk along, George scolds Lennie for playing with a dead mouse and warns him not to speak when they arrive at their new place of employment. When Lennie complains about not having ketchup for the beans they eat for dinner, George becomes angry, telling Lennie that he would be better off if he didn't have to take care of him. After they make up, George repeats to Lennie the details of their dream - that he and Lennie will raise enough money to buy a patch of land, where they will have a small farm with a vegetable patch and a rabbit hutch. The rabbit hutch is the only detail of the plan that Lennie consistently remembers. George tells Lennie that, if he gets into trouble as he did in Weed, he should return to the brush near the river and wait for George to find him.

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When George and Lennie reach the bunkhouse at the farm where they will work, an old man named [Candy](#) shows them their beds and tells them that the boss was angry that they didn't show up the night before. Soon, the Boss questions George and Lennie. He discovers Lennie's mental impairment and cannot understand why George would travel with him until George lies and says that Lennie is his cousin. After the boss leaves, his son, [Curley](#), enters the bunkhouse. Curley is a short man who hates larger men out of jealousy and insecurity; he has a new wife whom everyone suspects is unfaithful. His wife visits the bunkhouse later that night searching for Curley and flirts with the other men. Later, Curley returns looking for his wife and attempts to start a fight with George.

After a day of work, the men return to the bunkhouse. [Slim](#), whose dog had a new litter of puppies, gives Lennie one of them. George admits to Slim that he and Lennie escaped lynching when Lennie was accused of rape. [Carlson](#) complains about Candy's dog, a decrepit and stinking creature. He offers to shoot the dog, and after repeated complaints, Candy relents, despite his obvious wish to keep the dog. George complains about "tarts" such as Curley's Wife, and when the other men suggest that they visit a whorehouse the next night, George says that he prefers the company of whores, since with them there is no chance of danger. When George again tells Lennie the story about the house that they will have, Candy overhears. Candy offers to pool his money with theirs if they'd let him work on their farm. A bit later, Curley searches for his wife once more; he attacks Lennie when he suspects that Lennie is laughing at him. Curley punches Lennie several times, but Lennie does not fight back until George gives him permission, at which point Lennie crushes Curley's hand.

While the other men are at the whorehouse, Lennie visits [Crooks](#), the black stable buck. Crooks is rude and contemptuous toward Lennie until he realizes that Lennie has no ill intent. Candy also visits the two men, for they are the only ones left at the ranch while the others are in town. They discuss the plan for a small farm and Crooks shows some interest in joining them. [Curley's wife](#) sees the three men and seeks their company out of loneliness; when Crooks tells her that she is not supposed to be in his room, she upbraids them as useless cripples and even threatens Crooks with lynching.

The next morning, Lennie accidentally kills his new puppy when he bounces it too hard. Curley's wife finds him in the barn with the dead puppy. She pities him and allows him to feel how soft her hair is. When he handles her too forcefully, she screams. Lennie covers her mouth and accidentally snaps her neck. After this killing, Lennie flees from the ranch. Candy and George find the body and infer Lennie's guilt. Candy alerts the other men, and Curley forms a party to search for Lennie and kill him. In the interim, George steals Carlson's gun, leading the other men to think that Lennie took it before he escaped.

George, who points Curley and the other men in the wrong direction, finds Lennie in the brush where he told him to return at the beginning of the novel. Lennie has been having hallucinations of a giant rabbit and his [Aunt Clara](#); they warn Lennie that George will be angry at him for killing Curley's wife and that he has lost the possibility of having a house with a rabbit hutch. George reassures Lennie that they will have the rabbit hutch after all, meanwhile preparing to shoot his friend with Carlson's gun. Upon hearing the shot, the other men find George and Lennie. George tells them that Lennie had stolen the gun and that he shot Lennie after the gun got loose in a struggle.

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JOHN STEINBECK'S BIOGRAPHY

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. He is the only son of John Ernst Steinbeck Sr. and Olive Hamilton. His father was a bookkeeper and accountant who served for many years as the treasurer of Monterey County, California. Steinbeck received his love of literature from his mother, who was interested in the arts.

He worked his way through college at Stanford University but never graduated. While in college, he continued to write creatively, and he worked for a time on neighboring farms, especially Spreckels Sugar Ranch. The agricultural industry at this time relied on cheap, transient labor. It was during this time that Steinbeck met many of the types of people described with compassion in his later writing. In 1925 he went to New York, where he tried for a few years to establish himself as a free-lance writer. Steinbeck's first novel, *Cup of Gold*, was published in 1929. This novel sold 1,500 copies, and its publication began a decade of recognition and material prosperity for Steinbeck.

In 1930, Steinbeck married Carol Henning whom he had met while working and writing at Lake Tahoe. He and Carol moved to Los Angeles, where Steinbeck continued his writing while Carol did a great deal of editing. Steinbeck also met marine biologist Ed Ricketts, who was a fascinating and talkative companion.

During the decade of the 1930s — a time of national depression, bread lines, and bloody labor-management conflicts — Steinbeck knew a definitive cross-section of society and shared the problems and stresses of the times. In 1932, he received \$400 dollars for the first of his California novels, *The Pastures of Heaven*. He followed this novel with *To a God Unknown* in

1933, but neither novel did well. During this difficult time, his mother suffered a stroke, adding to his discouragement. But also during this period, Steinbeck conceived the idea for *The Red Pony* and won the O. Henry Prize in 1934 for his story, "Murder." Two of Steinbeck's Pony stories were published in the *North American Review*, and he was beginning to enjoy some prominence. This was tempered in 1934, however, by the death of his mother.

Ironically, Steinbeck's breakthrough novel, *Tortilla Flat*, had garnered him five rejection slips by the time it was accepted in 1935 by New York publisher Pascal Covici. The novel was an immediate popular success and won the Gold Medal of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco as the year's best novel by a Californian. Just before its publication, however, Steinbeck's father died, missing the positive critical success of his son's writing. Steinbeck received \$3,000 or \$4,000 for the Hollywood film rights.

Encouraged, Steinbeck began his next project, a novel about a strike of agricultural workers organized by two communists. Steinbeck titled the novel *In Dubious Battle* (1936), and it sold moderately well.

Of Mice and Men (1937), a popular and critical success, was selected by the Book-of-the-Month Club. Following its publication, Steinbeck toured England, Ireland, Russia, and Sweden. He returned to the United States and produced a play version of the book with famous playwright George Kaufman. The play won the New York Drama Critic Circle's Award on the first ballot and also became a popular film. When the play opened on Broadway, Steinbeck was already working on what most critics consider to be his masterpiece, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

The Grapes of Wrath came out of the time Steinbeck was working on *Of Mice and Men*, when he also accepted work writing for the *San Francisco News*. A major publishing event of 1939, *The Grapes of Wrath* became a best seller and was the eighth ranking book of 1940 according to *Publishers' Weekly*. It was estimated that over half a million copies of the original printing were sold. The novel was translated into foreign editions and won an American Bookseller's award as well as the Pulitzer Prize for the best novel of the year. Steinbeck was also elected to membership in the National Institute of Arts and Letters. In a year of great motion pictures, the film version of *The Grapes of Wrath* competed with *Gone with the Wind* and *the Wizard of Oz*. The strong movie censorship of the times, however, took a lot of the bite out of Steinbeck's criticism of social injustices.

Thrown increasingly into the public spotlight, Steinbeck experienced difficulties in his marriage. In an attempt to patch things up, he and Carol set off on a marine biology expedition with Ed Ricketts during the public controversy over *The Grapes of Wrath*. They traveled through the Gulf of California, later documented in *The Sea of Cortez*. But his marriage ended in divorce in 1943.

In 1943, Steinbeck married his second wife, Gwyndolyn Conger, with whom he had two children. 1948 was a particularly bad year for Steinbeck: Ricketts died, and Gwyndolyn left him. His marriage to Gwen ended as well, and the divorce settlement brought grave financial difficulties. He returned once again to Pacific Grove to heal and to write.

The 1950s brought a series of projects, including some novels, and a third and happier marriage. In 1950, Steinbeck married for the last time to Elaine Scott, the ex-wife of actor Randolph Scott. In the same year, he finished a screenplay for the film *Viva Zapata!* and

published the novel/play *Burning Bright*, which was produced on Broadway. The following year, Steinbeck began work on a 600-page novel, *East of Eden*. *East of Eden* is similar to *Of Mice and Men* in that it revisits the biblical story of Cain and Abel. *East of Eden* is the tale of two families through several generations and is set in Salinas Valley. A story of good and evil, it was produced as a film in 1952 and later as a miniseries for television.

During this period, Steinbeck also revised *Cannery Row* and republished it under the title *Sweet Thursday* (1954). Rogers and Hammerstein later used his story for their musical *Pipe Dream*. Besides returning to his biblical themes, Steinbeck also returned to another childhood influence: the King Arthur stories. He began a book (that would be published posthumously) based on Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, renaming it *The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights*. This book was rapidly followed in 1957 with *The Short Reign of Pippin IV*, a fantasy about medieval France but, like many of Steinbeck's later works, it received poor reviews.

Steinbeck's last two books were nonfiction. *Travels with Charley in Search of America* was an account of his trip from Maine to California. This journey was a pilgrimage of sorts in search of America, and he named his truck Rocinante, after the horse that carried the idealistic Don Quixote. Steinbeck's love for America is evident throughout this book, and he felt he had found the modern American character. His last book, *America and the Americans*, was about his faith that the country would come together despite the pains it suffered in the 1960s.

Steinbeck died on December 20, 1968, at his apartment in New York City. He was 66 years old. His wife took him home to Salinas, and he was buried not far from the many towns and ranches that sprang from his imagination and grace the pages of his books. A controversial

writer during much of his life, Steinbeck is often remembered with the phrase used in the awarding of his Nobel Prize: "... he holds his position as an independent expounder of the truth with an unbiased instinct for what is genuinely American, be it good or bad."