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| For the characters in *Of Mice and Men*, freedom means settling down. The life of the open road is only a type of captivity. |
| In *Of Mice and Men*, all the characters are trapped, either by their circumstances or who they are. Their lives are simply processes of becoming comfortable with those traps. |
| In *Of Mice and Men*, innocence is the only quality that can keep a man from becoming old, lonely, and bitter. |
| In *Of Mice and Men*, isolation is safer than togetherness. |
| Because they are together, George and Lennie are never truly isolated, no matter how different they may be. |
| In *Of Mice and Men*, friendship is dangerous: every time any character gets close to any other, something goes wrong. |
| In *Of Mice and Men*, dreams are necessary, even if the characters know that they'll never achieve them. |
| Steinbeck seems dreams and foolish and unnecessary, just leading to more sorrow. |
| Lennie has no grasp of the consequences of his actions, so justice has no meaning for him. |
| George and Lennie's dream is the quintessential American Dream of independence and freedom: their dream could be anyone's. |
| This novel argues that there is no single America. Rather, there are many different groups (women, black people, farm workers), each with its own unique struggle. |
| You can't win in *Of Mice and Men*: the weak are pitied, and the strong are condemned. |
| Curley's wife may be an awful woman, but she does suffer from real affliction and prejudice. Steinbeck uses her to illustrate the difficulties women faced during the Great Depression. |
| The novel uses the natural world as a sensible contrast to the bureaucratic or prejudiced justice of the civilized world. |

**Pick a statement and construct an argument for or against it. Include reference to key events, characters and quotations.**