To what extent is Steinbeck’s style ‘dramatic’ in *Of Mice and Men*?

What contribution does Slim make to *Of Mice and Men*?

Is *Of Mice and Men* a pessimistic novel?

Does Steinbeck condemn Curley’s wife, or does he sympathise with her?

Why does George shoot Lennie?

What are the main techniques that Steinbeck uses to create atmosphere in *Of Mice and Men*?

How significant is the theme of loneliness in *Of Mice and Men*?

“There are too many disabilities, misfits and unusual characters in *Of Mice and Men* for it to be described accurately as true to life.” Discuss.

What is the importance of dreams and dreaming in *Of Mice and Men?*

The title of the novel comes from a Robert Burns poem which says that the best laid plans often go wrong. How do the characters’ dreams go wrong in *Of Mice and Men?*

What does Steinbeck say about friendship in the novel?

The novel explores the issue of power through the character of Curley and the influence he has over the ranch hands and his wife. George also has power over Lennie. Who has power over whom in the novel? What are the effects of this power?

*Of Mice and Men* ends where it begins, with George and Lennie alone by the pool. What is your response to the ending of the novel?

Write about the importance of the different places in *Of Mice and Men*, real or imagined?

*Of Mice and Men* shows us that people can be cruel, or kind, or sometimes a mixture of both. Compare three characters.

Remind yourself of the fight between Lennie and Curley. Write about the importance of this passage in the novel.

Show how John Steinbeck explores the complex relationship between George and Lennie.

Hopes and dreams help people to survive, even if they can never become real. How true is this for characters in *Of Mice and Men*?

“Soledad” (the town where the novel is set) means ‘loneliness’. Why is this relevant to *Of Mice and Men*?

How does Steinbeck maintain the readers’ sympathy for Lennie?