Read the passage and then answer **part (a)** and **part (b)**

“’Course Lennie’s a **God damn nuisance most of the time**,” said George. “But you get used to goin’ around with a guy an’ you can’t get rid of him.”“He ain’t mean,” said Slim. “I can see Lennie ain’t a bit mean.”“’Course he ain’t mean. But he **gets in trouble alla time because he’s so God damn dumb.** Like what happened in Weed-“ He stopped, stopped in the middle of turning over a card. **He looked alarmed and peered over at Slim. “You wouldn’t tell nobody?”**
“What’d he do in Weed?” Slim asked calmly. “You wouldn’ tell? . . . . No, ‘course you wouldn’.” “What’d he do in Weed?” Slim asked again. “Well, he seen this girl in a red dress. Dumb bastard like he is,**he wants to touch ever’thing he likes**. Just wants to feel it. So he reaches out to feel this red dress an’ **the girl lets out a squawk, and that gets Lennie all mixed up, and he holds on ‘cause that’s the only thing he can think to do.**Well, this girl squawks and squawks. I was jus’ a little bit off, and I heard all the yellin’, so I comes running, an’ by that time Lennie’s so scared all he can think to do is jus’ hold on.**I socked him over the head with a fence picket to make him let go**. He was so scairt he couldn’t let go of that dress. And he’s so God damn strong, you know.”Slim’s eyes were level and unwinking. He nodded very slowly. “So what happens?”**George carefully built his line of solitaire cards.** “Well, that girl rabbits in an’ tells the law she been raped. The guys in Weed start a party out to lynch Lennie.So **we sit in a irrigation ditch under water all the rest of that day. Got on’y our heads sticking outa water,** an’ up under the grass that sticks out from the side of the ditch. An’ that night we scrammed outa there.”Slim sat in silence for a moment. “Didn’t hurt the girl none, huh?” he asked finally.**“Hell, no. He just scared her. I’d be scared too if he grabbed me.**But he never hurt her. He jus’ wanted to touch that red dress, **like he wants to pet them pups**all the time.”“He ain’t mean,” said Slim. “I can tell a mean guy a mile off.”

**Part (a)**

(a) How does Steinbeck use details to present the relationship between George and Lennie in the extract?

**and** then **Part (b)**

**(b)** How does Steinbeck use relationships to present the harsh realities of life at the time the book is set?

**Part A – think about:**

\* Steinbeck presenting the relationship at its worst with Lennie being accused of rape - a crime that will get him lynched.

\* George's obvious frustration with the situation.

\* George's isolation and perhaps depression (symbolised by the solitaire)

\* George is constantly on his guard - only with Slim (the Prince of the ranch) does George let his guard down and talk freely.

\* George's almost parental affection for Lennie  - he talks about Lennie being scared and the pups.

\* How George protects Lennie and the sacrifices he makes for him

Part B – think about:

\* Candy and his dog - loneliness and old age

\* Curley and his wife - roles of men and women

\* The Boss's suspicion of George - vulnerability of those with learning difficulties

\* Slim and George at the end of the novel and Carlson's last line