

Of Mice and Men Chapter-by-Chapter Reading Notes and Questions

Please answer all questions on a separate page.

Reading Notes: Chapter Three (pgs. 38–50)

Introduction While reading *Of Mice and Men* we will pause to make some observations. These observations are intended to improve your ability to see and interpret key ideas and events in the story. Write your responses to these questions on a separate sheet of paper *as you read*. It's fine to type your responses if you prefer. Responses to each question should be thorough, not just a few words or single sentence.

1. **Exposition:** List five *key details* that provide background to the characters and the plot up to this point. Explain why each detail is so important to the story.
2. **Rising Action:** List and describe the events in Chapter Three that increase the tension in the story and will lead to the climax. In a short paragraph, identify the events and explain *how* they affect the plot.
3. **Connect/Characterize:** Everyone respects Slim, especially Candy (p. 45) for whom “Slim’s opinions were law.” Write down a few reasons why people respect someone. Who is someone *you* respect, someone whose opinions are law? Explain *why* everyone respects Slim and how Slim is similar to or different from this person you respect so much.
4. **Infer:** Steinbeck includes a lot of animals in the story, including mice, rabbits, and dogs. Think about these animals and their relationship to the humans. What do you think Steinbeck is trying to say by using these animals? Why do you think that? Provide evidence to support your argument.
5. **Mood:** On pages 48–49, Steinbeck refers to “silence” repeatedly. What is the cause and meaning of the *silence*? Note that he personifies silence. Find some examples in which he personifies silence and explain how this technique affects the mood.
6. Develop two test questions based on the third chapter:
 - a. **Right There (Literal) Question:** This is a factual question that you can answer by pointing “right there” on the page to find the answer. An example from *The Odyssey* would be, “What test did Odysseus pass that the suitors could not?” (Answer: Stringing his bow and shooting the arrow through a row of ax handles.) Answer the question and explain its importance.
 - b. **Between the Lines (Inferential) Question:** This question is more complex. The answer cannot be pointed to on the page but must be *inferred* from other details in the story. An example from *The Odyssey* would be, “How would you characterize the relationship between Odysseus and his men?” Answer the question and explain its importance.