

Plan:

- ✓ Friendship with George unusual for itinerant/migrant workers
- ✓ Context - little equality for disabled people
- ✓ American dream
- ✓ Friendship - loyal to George
- ✓ Friendship - is loyal to George
- ✓ Relationship between George and Lennie = Father - Son
- ✓ Innocence - compared to other men, he has no malice

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13 As one of the main characters, Lennie is crucially important in the novella as he is vital to the key themes of Friendship and Dreams.

One of the first thing the reader notices about Lennie is his relationship with George. Lennie is very close to George; he looks up to him and George is ~~an~~ a father figure to Lennie. This is suggested by the way Lennie ... imitated George exactly... looked over to George to see whether he had it just right. Like a son does to a father, Lennie wants to be like George and also looks to him for approval. Similarly, even though Lennie is physically more imposing, he feels he needs George for protection - "Don't let him sock me, George" This shows he ~~relies on George~~ needs and relies on George, the same way a small child does to their parents.

The relationship between George and Lennie not only symbolises the theme of friendship, but contrasts with that of Loneliness. As migrant workers, George and

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Lennie have to move from place to place to find work. For most itinerant workers, this means they have little chance of ~~for~~ having a lasting friendship and are consequently lonely. However, as George and Lennie have each other, they're not lonely, as pointed out by George:

"Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world ... they don't belong no place ... with us it ain't like that"

In this quote, George clearly compares the lives of most itinerant workers with his own life.

Another noticeable thing about Lennie is that he is mentally disabled. Steinbeck uses this as a sign of when the book is set as ~~at~~ at that time, disabled people ~~we~~ had less equality than they do now. This is suggested by the way George doesn't want Lennie to say anything when they <sup>arrive at</sup> ~~get to~~ the ranch, for fear that they won't get the job.

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"... You ain't gonna say a word... If he finds out what a crazy bastard you are, we won't get no job"

Another thing that is significant about way in which Lennie is significant about Lennie is his innocence. This is linked to Lennie's place in society and his relationship with George as it is because he is childlike. Slim first notices his innocence and lack of malice when he says -

"I can see Lennie ain't a bit mean"

Although Lennie kills mice, a puppy and Curley's wife, it is still clear he has no malice, as after killing the puppy he says -

"Why do you got to get killed?"

as ~~he~~ blaming the puppy instead of himself shows that he feels he is not to blame and

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that he has no power ~~of~~ ~~or~~ ~~an~~ over of understanding of his own strength.

Lennie also represents the American Dream as, with George, he shares a hope of owning ~~to~~ their own ranch. He believes completely that the dream will come true and is always keen to hear of it.

"Come on, George Tell me. Please, George. Like you done before."

his repetition in that the above quote gives the impression that he is desperately pleading and therefore enthusiastic. He also never ~~he~~ ~~also~~ doubts the dream -

"How how long's it gonna be...?"

The use of 'when' instead of 'if' implies that it is certain it will happen.

Overall, Lennie is central to the themes and Plot of 'Of Mice and Men' and ~~the~~

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS**  
**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS**