

Anger is extremely significant within 'Mice and Men'.

Throughout the novel a key feature is the anger or wrath of the boss's son, Curley. Before the character himself is actually presented to the reader we are given a brief description of him from Candy, which largely refers to him being 'pretty handy'. This suggests that Curley's key resource within himself is anger and physical power towards others. Within the first scene of the book where Curley is present, Curley becomes angry and aggressive towards Lennie. This causes the reader to immediately take a dislike towards Curley as Lennie has been shown to be

a kind character. This shows that the presentation of anger is key towards the reader's opinions of characters. Not only that but it displays that within 1930s America prejudices towards 'outsiders' were supposedly to be solved by aggression and punishment by those with more power. This reveals Steinbeck's controversial opinion that the Wall

Street crash in 1928 and the following Depression resulted in those who had once been well-off and powerful becoming angry with the establishment and feeling that it was just to take out such anger on any person who may be ~~was~~ unable to physically or mentally (in the case of Lennie) defend themselves.

Such a significance of anger is also portrayed through the treatment of the resident black ranch worker,

Crooks. Candy is often used as a funnel for spoken exposition. At one such point in the novel he tells George that:

"The stable buck? He's a nice enough fella and is treated pretty good for a nigger. He works hard and sure sometimes if the boss ge's real mad he'll give'im a hittin' but he aint got no choice?"

Crooks works extremely hard on the ranch as the stable buck and is largely left alone in return however the view that black people were almost sub-human

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in the 30s is expressed by Steinbeck through how if someone with power, such as the boss, is angry about anything they are able to simply use it as an excuse to beat another human being. In this way Steinbeck mocks how anger is used as justification for incorrect discrimination and this suggests that racism itself should be mocked and disregarded. The author uses the anger of

his characters to make the reader think about any of their own ~~own~~ prejudices and try to make them discard them.

A key theme within 'Of Mice and Men' is hopes and dreams for the future and how they will almost always go awry. Anger is shown to be essential to the destruction of dreams. For example when it is discovered that Lennie has murdered Curley's wife an angry mob is formed and Stevenson portrays their anger through pieces of speech <sup>and prose</sup> such as:

"When you see 'em, don't give 'em no chance"

"I'm gonna shoot the gobs outta that big bastard"

and "There were violent, crashing footsteps in the brush".

If it had it been for the imminent onslaught of an angry mob then George may have not felt that it was imperative ~~and~~ that he kill Lennie out of mercy. Thus it was the presence of such an anger that meant that the friendship of George and Lennie was ultimately ripped apart. If George and Lennie had been able to simply run from their foes as like what "happened"

in Weed" then Stevenson insinuates that they could maybe have achieved the American Dream of self-reliance and having their "own lit" place with an orchard.

The concept of anger leading to the downfall of dreams, especially "The American Dream" is also shown through Crooks. In section 4 Crooks begins to feel hope, despite the poor quality of life that he leads due to the racism of the time, in the American Dream and being "useful for hoing up ground an' all them kin's of simple work" in a place in which he is accepted. However when Curley's

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wife lashes out at him in anger at him just being 'a stupid, useless nigger' if crushes such dreams so he 're-lives' he the <sup>horrible</sup> protective dignity of the

negro? This shows the contrast <sup>within the book</sup> between how long it takes for hopes and dreams to form and how quickly, resolutely and unreasonably anger and it's products can destroy such dreams.

Such a concept mirrors perfectly the context of the book. That is ~~is~~ how the power of the U.S. economy was obliterated by the wall street crash, how the depression that ensued destroyed the possibilities of the American dream and how discrimination could destroy lives.