

## SYNOPSIS

*Of Mice and Men* is a novel about the lives of the ranch workers in California, USA. The main characters are George Milton and Lennie Small. George is a sharp and intelligent man, and Lennie is a big man with a limited mental ability. They both travel together from town to town to seek for a job. They had an ambition that one day they would own a land where their farm stands on it. During the time of his life, George always accompanied Lennie, he protects and provides Lennie with his state of mind which Lennie does not carry. Lennie loves to pet soft things like small animals, silky dresses etc. While on a walk, Lennie pet a mouse and stroke it to death. George very aware of this and warned him not to did it again, he promised him to get him a puppy.

At the ranch in Soledad where they work, they met other ranch workers and soon befriend with them. There is Curley, the boss' son who has always been irritating to Lennie. Curley is a small and arrogant man; he hates big guys since he does not have great posture. Curley has a wife who is always looking for a friend for a talk, so she often comes up to the bunk where the ranch workers sleep. George warns Lennie to stay away from both Curley and his wife, he does not want Lennie to get involved in any troubles related to them. George then fulfils his promise, he asks Slim –one of the ranch workers- to give him a puppy to be given to Lennie. Lennie loves it very much he cannot let go of it, every time he has time he would see and pet the puppy.

Until then, there is an accident when Curley suddenly got mad and beats Lennie up. George yells to Lennie to strike back, so Lennie grab Curley's hand and stroke it until his hand crumbled. Curley cries in agony, the ranch workers warn him not to tell anyone about the accident. During the work there, Lennie works very hard. He does his work vigorously and restless. Both George and Lennie are working hard to develop some money to realize their ambition, to build their own farm. One day, Lennie's puppy is dead because he stroked so hard while playing with it. Lennie feels sad and afraid that George would scold on him, so he covered the dead puppy with hays. While he is mourning, Curley's wife appears and finds out. She encourages Lennie and tries to have a conversation with him. They are finally chatting and talk about everything. Curley's wife then figures out that Lennie loves to pet soft things, she asks him to touch her hair.

Lennie touch her hair and he loves it, he keeps touching until Curley's wife gets angry. She asks him to stop it but Lennie won't stop. She tries to get away from Lennie, but Lennie holds her head. She becomes frightened that she screams. Lennie is shocked that she screams so he clamps her mouth and asks her to stop screaming. Curley's wife struggles but Lennie is so strong, until then Lennie accidentally breaks her neck. Curley's wife is dead. Aware of what he has done Lennie runs away to a place where George commanded him to go there if he gets in any trouble. The whole ranch finds out the Curley's wife body. They quickly conclude who has done it. Curley gets in a great anger, he commands everyone to go after Lennie and kill him. George goes to the place where he used to ask Lennie to go there. He finds Lennie and sits next to him, they chat for a

while. Lennie asks him to tell about their ambition of having their own farm. George tells him about it and getting ready to shoot him in the back of his head. George keeps thinking if he is going to do the right thing, to end all of this and keep on living without a burden. George then quickly pulls the trigger and shoots Lennie to death.