

## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

#### III.1. CHARACTERIZATION

In this first sub-chapter, there are some characters to be analyzed. Actually, the characters which are going to be analysed, are the ones which are regarded can give meaningful supports for the whole analysis, which is meant to expose the idea of solidarity in the story.

##### III.1.1 George Milton

George Milton is one of two main characters in the story. He is described, physically, as a small person but has a strong characteristic of a man. His size is the opposite of his mind quality, it is also seen implicitly in the shape of his physical appearance as described in the beginning of the story.

"The first man was small and quick, dark of face, with restless eyes and sharp, strong features. Every part of him was defined: Small strong hands, slender arms, a thin and bony nose." (p.2)

From the quotation above, it seems that the author wants the reader to see the quality of George not by seeing his size, because it is not really a big matter for him. Except for his size, all of his physical descriptions can show his actual quality. He has strong hands, slender arms, restless and sharp eyes, and also thin and bony nose. It

means, he has strong features, or strong characteristics of a man.

George Milton is the kind of man who is willing to do anything that is considered can help the one that he loves, he can not let the one he loves to be suffered, even if he has to sacrifice much of his dreams. In his relation with Lennie Small, his closest friend, a giant size of a man with the mind of a child, it is shown that George has to take care of this giant man. George has to protect and control Lennie, because he realizes that Lennie is not capable to control himself, and also because it is very dangerous to let Lennie uncontrolled and does things by himself. There have been many troubles with Lennie when he is out of George's sight. There have been some incidents that may describe about this matter

- In a region that is called Weed, George has to accompany Lennie to hide in an irrigation all days to save Lennie from the people who is looking after him for an accident that is caused by Lennie's inability to control his strength,- Lennie is accused to rape a girl when he tries to pet a girl's dress, he can not control his strength so the girl getting scared and run to the people and tell them that she is going to be raped by Lennie-. In this accident George not only has to accompany Lennie to hide from the people but he also has to loose his job. (p.12, p.46)
- George almost has to protect Lennie all the time, even for a small matter. (p.3, p.24-25, p.32, p.69)

George's friendship with Lennie almost takes all of his time, he realizes that it is not possible for him to do

things as he wants when Lennie is with him. It is seen in the story that George is really sincere to have a friendship with Lennie, even though he sometimes gets angry with this condition, since it means he has to sacrifice most of his desires, or may be most of his life, for taking care of Lennie.

As a normal human being, George also has his own desires, he wants to do things that he wants, and for his own. For these reasons, George sometimes gets mad when he realizes that it is not possible for him to realize most of his desires, if he has to take care and protect his friend, Lennie, all the time.

"Whatever we ain't got, that's what you want. God a'mighty, if I was alone I could live so easy. I could go get a job an' work, an' no trouble. No mess at all, and when the end of the month come I could take my fifty bucks and go into town and get whatever I want. Why, I could stay in a cat house all night all night. I could eat any place I want, hotel or any place, and order any damn thing I could think of.... "An' whatta I got," George went on furiously. "I got you! You can't keep a job and you loose me ever' job I get. Jus' keep me shovin' all over the country all the time. An' that ain't the worst. You get in trouble. You do bad things and I got to get you out." His voice rose nearly to a shout. "You crazy son-of-a-bitch. You keep me in hot water all the time." (p.12)

In the quotation above, it is described George is very mad to George. He tells Lennie that he always can't do whatever he wants to do. He can not have his own time since he has to take care of him all the time. The writer thinks it is very normal for someone be mad for such situation.

Besides. George gets mad only for a very brief moment. He is so ashamed when he finds that Lennie is so sad to know that he is mad to him.

"His anger left him suddenly. He looked across the fire at Lennie's anguished face, and he looked ashamedly at the flame." (p.12)

We can see that even though George sometimes gets angry with Lennie, his love to Lennie is too much. He can not see Lennie to be sad. It is described that he is so ashamed when he realized that Lennie is so sad when he is angry.

### III.1.2. Lennie Small

Lennie Small is the other one of the two main characters in this story. He is described physically and mentally as the opposite of George Milton, the first main character. Lennie is a large retarded man who has the mind of a child.

"Behind him walk his opposite, a huge man, shapeless of face, with large pale eyes, with wide, sloping shoulders; and he walked heavily, dragging his feet a little, the way a bear drags his paws. His arms did not swing at his sides, but hung loosely.(p.2)

The word 'his opposite', in the above quotation, seems to represents the description of Lennie Small as a contrary different character compared to George Milton, his partner. The size of his body, the description of all parts of his body, and the way he moves them, show him as a really strong man but who has also the mind of a child.

As a retarded person, Lennie is very dependent, he always needs someone to take care of him. He always needs someone to guide him, even to do a very simple thing. It is seen clearly in the story when he and George are interviewed by the land owner.

"....The boss licked his pencil."What's your name?"  
 "George Milton."  
 "And what's yours?"  
 George said, "His name's Lennie Small"  
 ...."Where you boys been working?"  
 "Up around Weed," said George.  
 "You too?" to Lennie  
 "Yeah, him too," said George." (p.24)

How dependence is Lennie, can be seen clearly from the quotation above. George has to answer all the questions which are asked to Lennie, he knows it will be very risky if he lets Lennie answers the boss's questions, because it is very probable for Lennie to make mistakes, even it is only a very simple question.

Beside a retarded man, Lennie is also a very strong man, a man with the strength of a bear. Actually, if we study all the troubles which are caused by Lennie, in this story, we can see that it is not really because Lennie 's simple mind that makes them happen, but it is more Lennie's magnificent strength that makes all these troubles possible to happen. The one who has both a strength and a very simple mind like Lennie, is very dangerous, for himself and for others, there must be someone to look after someone like him.

There are two prominent incidents in this story that may indicate how dangerous Lennie is, the one who has both a magnificent strength and also a very simple mind. The incident in Weed and the incident when Lennie kills Curley's wife, are both caused by Lennie's inability to control his strength. These two incidents show that Lennie is the kind of a man who always needs someone to take care of, since he, himself, is not capable to do that.

"So he reaches to feel this red dress and 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.... He was so scairt he couldn't let go of that dress. And he's so God damn strong, you know." (p.46)

"....Then Lennie grew angry. "Now don't," he said. "I don't want you to yell. You gonna get me in trouble jus' like George says you will. Now don't you do that." And she continued to struggle, and her eyes were wild with terror. He shook her then, and he was angry with her. "Don't you go yelling'," he said, and he shook her; and her body flopped like a fish. And then she was still, for Lennie had broken her neck." (p.100)

It has been described above, that Lennie is a retarded man with the mind of a child. When we look back at the first quotation of this sub chapter, it is seen that the way Lennie moves his body is like a child. And we may get more obvious explanations if we look further into the story. Lennie is interested to the things which are usually liked by the children. Here are some of his actions that may explain about this.

"Lennie dabbled his big paw in the water and wiggled his fingers so the water arose in little splashes; ring widened across the pool to the other side and came back again. Lennie watched them go. "Look George, Look what I done." (p.3)

"He heard Lennie's whimpering cry and wheeled about. "Blubbering' like a baby! Jesus Christ! A big guy like you." (p.10)

Lennie is also the kind of a man who is never suspicious of any one he meets. It might be his simple mind that makes him to be someone like that. His willingness to make friends with someone he meets may explain about this matter. It is told in the story that he can have a good friendship with Candy, an old crippled man. Crooks, the stable buck, the one never lets any body to come to his room, except for Slim and the boss, lets him come into his room because he can see that Lennie doesn't have any bad attention to him. It is also told that Lennie is willing to make friends with Curley's wife, the one that is always ignored by the other farmhands. He doesn't see that she might have any bad attention towards him. From these descriptions, we may regard Lennie as the most sincere man in this story.

### III.1.3. Slim

Beside those two main characters, there are also some characters which are prominent to be discussed in this chapter, and one of these characters is Slim, a sympathetic farmhand who understand and consoles George when Lennie is killed.

"A tall man stood on the doorway. He held a crushed Stetson hat under his arm while he combed his long, black, damp hair straight back. Like the others he wore blue jeans and a short denim jacket. When he had finished combing his hair he moved into the room, and he moved with a majesty only achieved by royalty and master craftsmen. He was a jerkline skinner, the prince of the ranch, capable of driving ten, sixteen, even twenty mules with a single line to the leaders. He was capable of killing a fly on the wheeler's butt with a bull whip without touching the mule. There was a gravity in his manner and a quite so profound that all talk stopped when he spoke. His authority was so great that his word was taken on any subject, be it politics or love. This was Slim, the jerkline skinner. His hatchet face was ageless. He might have been thirty-five or fifty. His ear heard more than was said to him, and his slow speech had overtones not of thought, but of understanding beyond thought. His hands, large and lean, were as delicate in their action as those of a temple dancer." (p.37)

According to the description of the author about his figure, above, which seizes almost an entire page, Slim is described as someone who has both physical and mental quality. He is described as a tall man who has ageless face, large and lean hands. The way he moves and the way he speaks, may represent the greatness of his authority. Slim is also described as the one who has a wide knowledge about many things, the thing that makes him able to understand anything that happen in his surrounding.

Since it might be not fair to judge Slim only from his physical appearance, we will try to get some informations which are included in the story. In this case, we will see it through his relation with others, his speeches



and his actions, or may be from the comments of other characters.

In his relations with the farmhands, it is found that Slim is very respected. He can be said as the informal leader of the farmhands. We can see it from the incident when Candy try to prevent Carlson for shooting his old dog.

"Candy looked helplessly at him, for Slim's opinions was law." (p.50)

"Candy looked a long time at Slim to try to find some reversal. And Slim gave him none. At last Candy said softly and hopelessly, "Awright--take 'im."" (p.52)

From the quotation above, we can see that Slim has the authority to decide. His opinion is the law. In this incident, to decide whether the dog should be killed or not, Slim's opinion is needed. If Slim has allowed that thing could be done, so it could be done, and there will be no one will dare to oppose his opinion.

Slim is also the one who really cares for his colleagues. It is seen clearly through his willingness to help Lennie when Lennie is beaten by Curley. It is very risky for Slim, if he is really involved in the fight, He may loose his job, for Curley is the boss's son. We may also sees his deep understanding towards George. He is the one who consoles George when Lennie is killed. He knows it is very difficult for George to kill his closest and lovely friend. But he also knows that it is the only thing that George can do for Lennie. In these two cases, we may regard Slim as the

one who really has a big solidarity towards his colleagues, since he knows George and Lennie for a very brief time.

#### III.1.4. Candy

Candy is the first person that is met by George and Lennie when they enter the bunk house. He is an old and crippled farmhand.

"The wooden latch raised. The door opened and a tall, stoop-shoulder old man came in. He was dressed in blue jeans and he carried a big push-broom in his left hand."

"He pointed with his right arm, and out of the sleeve came a round stick like wrist, but no hand." (p.20)

Actually, Candy is an apathetic old man before he hears George and Lennie's plan. He does not have any one, except his old dog. When his dog is shot by Carlson, he realizes that, he really does not have any one. He also begins to realize that he will have a very bad future. He can not imagine how the life will be, for an old man like him, who does not have no one and no thing, in his old days.

When he hears about the plan, he is so interested because he knows, it might give him a better life, even though he also knows that it is not easy to be realized. He offers all of his money in order to make them accept him. He is so excited when he knows that they let him join the plan. It is really meaningful for Candy, he can get all his spirits back, the spirit that he has lost for a long time.

Candy becomes a cheerful man since the day he accepted to join the plan. We can see it in the scene when he is in Crooks room. It is described that Candy feels so embarrassed when he realizes that he has never talked to Crooks, the stable buck, the one that he has known for a long time. His embarrassment may explain that he did not talk to Crooks not because he sees that Crooks is black, but it is because Crooks lives in a room that is separated from other farmhands', room and also because he was so apathetic to his surrounding. It also may indicates that Candy is not a racist. Moreover, Candy ever said that Crooks is a nice fella, "Yeah. a nice fella too." (p.22)

### III.1.5. Crooks

Crooks is a negro farmhand who keeps to himself and is aloof from the white workers.

"This room was swept and fairly neat, for Crooks was a proud, aloof man. He kept his distance and demanded that other people keep theirs. His body was bent over to the left by his crooked spine, and his eyes lay deep in his head, and because of their depth seemed to glitter with intensity. His lean face was lined with deep black wrinkles, and he had thin, pain-tightened lips which were lightened than his face." (p.74)

Crooks might be the most apathetic man in this story. As we can see in the above quotation, Crooks is described as the one who keeps his distance from others, and also demands the others to keep their distance from him. In the conversa-

tion which occurs in Crooks' room we may get some informations that can explain his apathy.

"I ain't a Southern Negro," he said. "I was born right here in California. My old man had a chicken ranch, 'bout ten acres. The white kids come to play at our place, an' sometimes I went to play with them, and some of them was pretty nice. My ol'man didn't like that. I never knew till long later why he didn't like that. But I know now." He hesitated, and when he spoke again his voice was softer. There wasn't another colored family for miles around. And now there ain't a colored man on this ranch an' there is jus' one family in Soledad." He laughed. "If I say something, why it's just a nigger sayin' it." (p.77)

Through his story, we can see that Crooks is really disappointed to the social condition, the condition that has made him so apathetic. He tells Lennie that when he was a kid, he didn't realize he was different to other kids. He could play with white kids, and he saw some of them were nice to him. But, when he was growing, he became to realize that he was different, and may be he also realized that the kids were not nice anymore. Crooks may also had some bad experiences with white people, since he always try to keep his distance from them. We can also see through the description of his face. His face is described as the face of a man who has experienced so many sufferings. His face is lined with deep black wrinkles, with pain-tightened lips.

When he hears about the plan that is told by Lennie, at first he doesn't believe that it may happen. But when Candy also tells him about the plan, he begins to believe it. and moreover, he wants to join them. He offers himself

to work for them without any payment. But before there is any decision is made, whether his proposal is agreed or not, he pulls his proposal back. It seems that Crooks wake up from his dreams when George calls Lennie. He thinks that it is not possible for a black man to join the white men's plan, especially when he has nothing to be given except his body.

### III.1.6. Curley

Curley is the son of the boss, the land owner. He is a small, cocky and arrogant man, a mean little guy.

"At that moment a young man came into the bunk house; a thin young man with a brown face, with brown eyes and a head of tightly curled hair. He wore a work glove on his left hand, and, like the boss, he wore high heeled boots." (p.27)

As we can see in his appearance, there is no specific thing in his appearance, except that he is small and wearing high heeled boots like his father. But, from this unspecific appearance of Curley, we may understand why Curley has to show off his existence.

It is seen in the story, that there is no one gives any respect to Curley. We can see that there are so many reasons why there is no one likes him, even his own wife. Curley's arrogant manner is one of these reasons. His manner towards George and Lennie may tell about this.

"He glanced coldly at George and then at Lennie. His arms gradually bent at the elbows and his hands closed into fists. He stiffened and went

into a slight crouch. His glance at once calculating and pugnacious. Lennie squirmed under the look and shifted his feet nervously. Curley stepped gingerly close to him. "You the new guys the oldman was waitin' for you?" (p.28)

The quotation above might be an indication that the way he treats people is very rough. He may think that by doing such thing, people will know that he has the authority and they will respect him. But, he doesn't realize that by treating people like that no one will respect him.

The reality that he is small, might also make him as someone who always wants to show off his presence. As it is told by Candy to George, Curley hates big guys. The way he looks at Lennie, indicating that he hates Lennie and he wants to challenge him.

"Curley's like a lot of little guys. He hates big guys. He's all the time picking scraps with big guys. Kind of like he's mad of 'em because he ain't a big guy. You seen little guys like that ain't you? Always scrappy." (p.29)

Candy also tells George that Curley might be mad that he is not a big guy, so he hates the big guy. If it is right what is told by Candy, maybe we can regard Curley as someone who can not accept his weakness. He can not accept the reality that he is not big.

### III.1.7. Curley's Wife

The woman is given no name, a beautiful young girl who always try to get attention from any one she meets.

"A girl was standing there looking in. She had full, rouged lips and wide-spaced eyes, heavily made up. Her fingernails were red. Her hair hung in little rolled clusters, like sausages. She wore a cotton house dress and red mules, on the insteps of which were little bouquets of red ostrich feathers.... Her voice had a nasal, brittle quality." (p.34)

As it is quoted above, we can see that Curley's wife the kind of woman who wants to show her presence. From the way she makes up her face, her hair, her nails, we can find that she wants her surrounding to see her as a pretty lady.

It is also told in the story that there is a bad impression about her. She is told as the kind of woman who likes to tease the farmhands, as it is told by Candy to George.

"...I seen her give Slim the eye, Curley never seen it. An' I seen her give Carlson the eye." (p.31)

From this quotation, we may also see her as a bad wife. It seems that she is not faithful to her husband. And we may assume that Curley's wife is only a 'cheap' woman.

But, it may also be so shocking for a girl like her to live in a farm. A young woman like her still needs to be flattered, needs to be treated as a lady. She will not find the ones who can fulfill her needs at this place.

"Ranch with a bunch of guys on it ain't no place for a girl, specially like her." (57)

All the conditions that she has to deal, may also give the reasons why she acts like a 'cheap' woman. She is described as the woman who always try attract men's attention.

She makes up herself heavily in order to make the people to look at her. By doing such thing, she hopes that she can impress them, and hopes that they will pay attention to her.

Curley's wife is a lonely woman. She could not find someone who can understand her needs, the one who can treat her properly, the one that she can talk to, the one who can understand her. She can not hope to much to her husband since she knows that someone like Curley, doesn't really care to any one, except for himself. We can find it in her conversation with Lennie.

"Sat'iday night. Ever'body out doin' som'pin'. Ever'body! An' what am I doin'? Standin' here talkin' to a bunch of bindle stiffs--a nigger an' a dum-dum and a lousy ol' sheep--an' likin' it because they ain't nobody else." (p.86)

"Why can't I talk to you? I never get to talk to nobody. Iget awful lonely." (p.95)

In his conversation with Lennie it is also found that Curley's wife is a frustrated woman. When she was a young girl, she dreamed to be an actress. She was so sure that she was gonna be an actress. But, when she could not realize her dream, she became frustrated. Then she met Curley, and she married him. Now she realizes that his marriage with Curley doesn't give her happiness, this marriage even makes her more frustrated and lonely. (p.96-97)



## III.2. PLOT

### III.2.1. Exposition

In *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck uses the entire pages of the first chapter as the exposition of his story's plot. Here, in this chapter, we are introduced to the main characters, their characteristics and what conflicts that may happen to them.

In the beginning of the story it is told about two men who are walking to the nearby farm to get the harvesting job. These two men are described to have a very contrast physical appearance. The first man is physically described as a small man and the second is described as a very huge man. The first one is named George Milton and the second one is named Lennie Small.

During this trip, it is seen that these two men are very contrast not only by their size. George Milton, the small man, has to take care of his partner, Lennie Small, the big man. When they arrive at the riverside, Lennie is very enthusiast to drink the water of the river, but then George reminds Lennie to be careful with the water since it doesn't move. In this occasion, it is also found that Lennie acts like a child, he plays with the water and he wants George to know that. Lennie's child mind also can be seen through his to the soft and beautiful things.

In this exposition part, it is revealed many things that may happen to these two friends. Lennie is described as

someone who has a very bad memory. He almost can not remember the things that is told to him. When George asks Lennie about why they come to that place, Lennie is not able to remember not a thing the reason why they come to that place. Lennie is also described as the one who likes to pet the soft things. It is told that George has to throw away a death mouse which is petted by Lennie.

It is also found that the combination of Lennie's simple mind and his passion of petting soft things is the potential matter that may cause troubles. There had been an accident that caused by this matter. It is told that they had to escape from the people that chased Lennie, when Lennie is accused try to rape a girl. It was because Lennie's inability to control his strength when he tried to pet a girl's dress. This accident made them loose their job.

In this part also told about the hiding place. George realizes that it is very possible for Lennie to make a mistake like he has done before. So, George tells Lennie to go back at this place when he is in trouble. In order to avoid to make unnecessary mistake, George also reminds Lennie not to answer all the questions during the interview.

### III.2.2. Complication

As it is told in the exposition part, George has reminded Lennie that he is not supposed to answer when he is asked. But, during the interview, when George answers all

the questions which are headed to Lennie, the boss becomes suspicious. He force Lennie to answer his questions. It makes Lennie becomes confused and almost loosing control. But George explain to the boss that Lennie is not bright but he has an incredible strength that he can do many things if somebody tells him. In this event, they can escape from difficulties since the boss can accept George' explanation.

Later, Curley's wife coming to the bunk house, Lennie seems so attracted to her. George knows, it is very dangerous for them. She may lead them into some big trouble, because he knows, Lennie is interested to the beauty of things. And for Lennie, Curley's wife is a very beautiful woman. George tells Lennie that he has to stay away from her.

Then, Curley the son of the boss also comes into the bunk house. He comes to them, and he treats them very unkindly, especially to Lennie. When George finds out that Curley is an arrogan man who hates the big men, he realizes, there will be troubles for them if they deal with him. He also orders Lennie to stay away from this man.

### III.2.3. Crisis

On the next event, the incident can no more be reject-ed. Curley is pretty mad when he sees Lennie is grinning. Even though, actually Lennie is not grinning to him, Lennie can not explain that to Curley. Then, Curley challenges

Lennie to fight against him. He hits Lennie many times, but Lennie doesn't fight him back. Lennie is so scared and so confused with this situation. Knowing his friend is beaten over and over by Curley, George is pretty mad. He has no other choice. He orders Lennie to fight him back. And, since it is George who gives him the order, Lennie fights him back, and he easily breaks Curley's left hand.

After the fight George thinks they will lose their job, because he knows that the one who has a fight with Lennie is the boss's son. But, Slim, a big tall skinner, saves them. He threatens Curley to tell all the people about this fight if he tries to report this incident to his father. Finally, Curley agrees not to tell his father because he will be very ashamed if everybody knows about this fight.

#### III.2.4. Climax

As it is told in the Complication part, Curley's wife is the one that may lead George and Lennie into some big trouble. And George has tried many times to warn Lennie to stay away from her.

When Lennie is mourning over his dead puppy, which is accidentally killed by his uncontrolled strength, Curley's wife is coming in. She tries to talk to Lennie. Actually, Lennie has tried to ignore her. He tells her that George doesn't allow him to talk to her. And he also tells her that he is ordered by George to stay away from her.

But, Curley's wife still insists her presence. She begs Lennie to accept her presence. She tells Lennie that she has no one to talk to. And Lennie can no longer ignore her. He, actually, can not resist a fascinated thing like her. Then they have a conversation.

When Curley's wife knows that Lennie likes to pet soft and beautiful things, she offers her hair to be petted by Lennie. The accident happens, Lennie strikes her hair too hard and she begins to yell. Knowing that Curley's wife yelling, Lennie becomes panic. He strikes her harder and harder in order to keep her mouth shut. But, because Lennie can not control his striking, so Curley's wife is death.

Lennie is so scare when he knows that Curley wife is death. He remembers that George ever told him, if he gets into trouble he has to hide in the place around the river side. So, he goes there and hide in that place.

Candy, the old swamper finds the body of Curley's wife. He knows that Lennie has killed her and he tells George about it. George realizes that it is difficult situation for him and also for Lennie. It is very dangerous to let Lennie caught by Curley since he knows that Curley will be very angry to know his wife is killed, especially by Lennie. He decides to find Lennie first before somebody can find him.

### III.2.5. Resolution

In the hiding place, Lennie regretting the accident that causes Curley's wife's death. He is imagining all the dreams of tending rabbits. Lennie's mind is full with terror. In his mind, he sees that the rabbits are so angry to all that he has done. They blame him since he has ruined the plan that he and George try to realize.

While Lennie is half conscious with his imaginative rabbits, George comes in. Lennie wants George tells him about the rabbits story that they will tend rabbits. And George tell Lennie the rabbits story.

George mind is full with conflicts when he puts the gun out from his pocket. But he has to kill Lennie. He can not Lennie to be killed by Curley. He thinks it is much better to kill Lennie himself, than let Lennie to be killed by any one else. Even though it is very difficult for him, finally George pulls the trigger. He shoots Lennie right on his head and Lennie is death.

### III.3. SOLIDARITY

In *Of Mice and Men* we can see that the roll of the two main characters is the very prominent one. We may even say that the story is actually about these two main characters, George Milton and Lennie Small.

It is told in the story that George Milton and Lennie Small are two friends. It is also told that they have very

contrast characteristics. George Milton is described as a small man but who has the strong characteristics of a man. His friend, Lennie Small, is described as a huge strong man but who has the mind of a child.

Even though George and Lennie have very different characteristics, there is really a strong friendship between them. It is told that even though George is much smaller than Lennie, but he has to take care of his big friend almost all the time, since Lennie is a very dependent person. We can see that George has to order Lennie for whatever that Lennie does, even for a simple thing that a child might be able to do that.

There are some events that may describe the dependence of Lennie towards George, and George's willingness to take care of his big friend, Lennie Small. In the place nearby the river, when they stop for a rest, it is told that George warns Lennie about the water that he drinks. Here, George also has to put away a death mouse from Lennie's hands. Moreover, during the interview, George also has to answer all the questions which are headed for Lennie, even for a simple question, like when Lennie is asked his name, it is because George knows that it is really possible for Lennie to make unnecessary mistake, even for a very simple thing that he does.

All these things in the above paragraph, also describe that George is very protective towards Lennie. We can find

that there are also some events that may give more indications that George is so protective to Lennie. When they first meet Curley's wife, George notices that Lennie is so attracted to that girl. George realizes that it could be very dangerous if he lets Lennie to be near to this woman. So, he orders Lennie to stay away from her and not to talk to her. George also warns Lennie to stay away from Curley when he finds out that Curley hates the big guys and acts unfriendly to them when they first meet him. Before they come to the farm, there was an accident at the place where they worked before, that was caused by Lennie. When Lennie tried to pet a girl's dress, he stroked it too hard, so the girl began to scream. The people thought that Lennie tried to rape her. They chased Lennie but George helped Lennie to escape from them. This accident made them lost their job. If we look to what that has been done by George for Lennie, we can see that George is the kind of man who always be ready to help his friend, even though it may also puts him in danger.

But George is not a super man, he is not really different from the other men, he also has his own desires. It is seen that since George has to look after his big friend all the time, he almost has no time for his own. The writer thinks, it is very human for George that he sometimes grumbles about the condition since this condition makes him unable to do many things for his own shake. It is told in



the story that George is pretty mad when Lennie asks for ketchup, the thing that they don't have. Actually, it is not the ketchup that makes George is so mad. Before this incident, it is also told that George has drilled Lennie about many things, but Lennie always forgets them. It makes George has to remind Lennie again and again. Finally, when they are going to have dinner in the place where they take a rest it is told that George is pretty mad when Lennie asking for ketchup. The writer thinks that it is very probable that George has been already so tired with Lennie. He says that Lennie always gets them into trouble, and he has to look after him all the time. George grumbles about this condition, since it makes him unable to do many things that he wants. But it doesn't last long, his anger is immediately gone when he finds that Lennie is so sad knowing that he is mad to him. George realizes that he is not supposed to be mad to Lennie since he knows doesn't really want to make him mad. Then, it is told that Lennie offering himself to split away from George if he is not wanted anymore, but George does not let Lennie goes. He knows that it is very difficult, or may be impossible for Lennie to live by himself, with no one to lead him. Besides, George can not let Lennie suffers, his love to Lennie is too much.

The writer thinks this incident can indicate that there is a strong friendship between these two men. We can see that there have been already many informations that can

describe that George gives so much that he got for Lennie. George shows his great solidarity as a friend towards Lennie. He is willing to sacrifice much of his desires, much of his interests for his lovely friend, Lennie Small. But, moreover, there is a very prominent thing that is possessed by both of them, it is the sincerity. We can see that George cares for Lennie is not because Lennie can give him any profit. On the other side, Lennie, even though he really depends upon George, but he doesn't want to make George unhappy for him.

As it was said in the preceding paragraph of this subchapter, Lennie was told as the one who has the mind of a child. We may assume that a man with a mind like Lennie's will only gives troubles to his companion(s). It might be true if we look at the troubles that he has caused in his relationship with George. But the writer finds that Lennie's childlike mind also show the other side of Lennie. Through the way he treats people, the writer finds that Lennie's childlike mind also makes him as the kind of man who never have any bad intention towards anyone, it is since he never have any suspicion to anyone that he sees. He never means no harm to anyone. Even though it also means he is too easy to believe anyone that he meets. In his relation with other characters of this story, we can see how Lennie is so easy to believe Candy, Crooks and even Curley's wife, the one who then puts him in death.

It is told when Candy is mourning for his old dog that had been killed by Carlson, when he hears about George and Lennie's plan from Lennie. Candy feels that he may have the same fate just like his old dog; getting old, useless and dumped by his surrounding, if he has nothing for his old days. When he hears about the plan, he thinks that it might be still hope for him if he is allowed to join the plan, which also means by joining the plan he will have something for his old days. So, he offers all of his money to join the plan and they accept him. Actually it is not easy for George to let someone to join the plan, but he sees that Lennie is so sincere and is willing to accept Candy in their plan, so he lets Candy to join them. Even though it can also mean that Lennie is so reckless with all that he has done, but it also explain that Lennie with his plainness is kind of person who is willing to share his happiness to the others.

In his relation with Crooks, Lennie is told as the one who can change Crooks' opinion about his surrounding. Crooks is told as a very aphetetic man before he meets Lennie. He alienates himself from his surrounding and he demands his surrounding to keep their distance from him since he realize that he is different from the others, he is a black man who lives in a whitemen's society. He also believes that there is not a single white man will really accept him as he is, besides he realizes that he is the only black man in his

surrounding. But he is not really right with his opinion any more when he meets Lennie.

When Lennie is entering Crooks' room, it is told that Crooks tries to get Lennie out of his room. He tells Lennie that he is not supposed to entering his room. Lennie, with his childlike mind, can not understand why he is not supposed to entering Crooks' room, so he insists his appearance. Because Crooks doesn't see any bad intention in Lennie, he doesn't no longer force Lennie to get out of his room. Then, there is a conversation happens between these two men. In their conversation, it is found that Crooks has experienced many unpleasant situations in his life of being a black man in the society of the white men. It is also told that Lennie tells Crooks about the plan. First, Crooks actually doesn't really believe that the plan is possible to be realized, but when Candy comes into his room and support what is told by Lennie, Crooks begins to believe it, more over Crooks wants to join the plan by offering himself to work for them with no payment. But, before they decides whether his proposal is accepted or not, Crooks pulls his proposal back when he hears George call for Lennie.

Even though Crooks does not happen to join the plan, we can find there are some changes in Crooks. It is told in the story that before Lennie, no one has entered Crooks' room except the boss and Slim, the ones who really has the importance with his work in the farm, the boss is the land

owner, and Crooks is Slim's helper. Crooks lets Lennie to come to his room because he sees Lennie is different from the other white men that he happened to see. He doesn't see any bad intention in this man, so he feels so comfortable to tell all about him to Lennie. It is also because of Lennie, Crooks lets Candy entering his room. Lennie indirectly has changed Crooks to be not so apathetic, it is seen in his willingness to let Candy enter his room. It is told that Crooks invites Candy to come into his room when he sees Candy at the door, he never does such thing before. We also see that Crooks no longer judges all the white men are bad. In Crooks' room it is not only revealed Crooks as an apathetic person who doesn't care his surrounding, but we also find Candy as an apathetic person like Crooks. When Crooks invites Candy to come into his room, it is told that Candy is so embarrassed, he realizes that he never had any conversation with Crooks even though he lives in the same farm for not really a brief moment. Candy realizes that he never really cares for his surrounding, even though he never meant it, so when he begins to realize it, he feels so ashamed.

Lennie's plainness also reveals the other side of Curley's wife. In the preceding chapter Curley's wife is described as a naughty girl who always tries to attract and tease the farmhands. But when we see further through the whole story, it is seen that she is actually a lonely girl

who wants someone to give her attention, and is the one who really needs someone to give her care, love and affection.

When there is a conversation in Crooks' room among Lennie, Candy and Crooks, it is told that Curley's wife is entering the room and tries to insist her appearance. Crooks and Candy try to drive her out of the room, but she still tries to insist her appearance. She tells them that everyone is going out to town and there are only them in the farm, and she has no one to talk to. In this case we can see that Curley's wife is a lonely person who can not find someone who wants to talk to her. In the other scene, when Lennie is mourning over his puppy, she tries to approach and make a friend to him. Then, we can see there is a conversation between them. To Lennie she tells all about her, all of her past life, all of her dreams that she could not realize. She really is an unhappy person, a frustrated woman. She needs to be flattered, to be treated like a lady and she could not find them in that place. It is really right what has been told by George about her that she doesn't belong to that place. She can not find the ones who can fulfill all that she needs in a farm where there are only rough men.

So, when she sees Lennie, even though she realizes that Lennie is not really the one that could not satisfy all that she needs, she knows that to Lennie she feels comfortable to let out all the things that have been buried in her, all the things that drive her crazy. She knows that

someone like Lennie with his plainness would not laugh at her when she tells all the things about her.

The plainness of Lennie may also reveal why Slim is willing to take a risk when he is going to help Lennie when Lennie is beaten by Curley. Lennie with his plainness makes him as a really nice person who never have any intention to do any harm to anyone. So, it can really be understood if Slim, who is told as a symphatetic man, can not let someone like Lennie to get such brutal treatment from Curley. And, it is also really understandable when we see Slim gives all his sympathy for George, when George has to kill Lennie, since it is the only thing that George can do for Lennie. Slim really understand how difficult it is for George to lost a lovely friend who had been with him for a long time.

Through all that we have discussed above, we can see that actually it is not only the relationship of the two main characters is prominent in this story. It is true that between the two main characters we can see a very strong relationship of two friends, and it is also true that there is a strong solidarity of a friend like what is shown by George for his retarded friend Lennie Small in this relationship. But, the writer sees in the relationship of the main character(s) to the other characters, there are also found the idea of solidarity. Some characters of this story, in their relations with the main characters, especially with Lennie, are revealed to have unlucky conditions. Candy, the

old swamper, is described as an old lonely man who feels that he soon would be useless and dumped by his society. Crooks, the stable buck, a crippled black man who has to experience many unpleasant treatments since he is black. And also Curley's wife, a pretty young girl, a lonely girl who is hunger for someone's love, care and affection. These characters are the representatives of the ones who really needs someone who is willing to give his sympathy, his solidarity for them as the same human being.



