

Slim

Introduction: give a general response to the question set and outline what you will be covering in your essay.

<i>Slim gives no indication of having dreams - false or otherwise. He appears content – this contentment stems from being the master of his trade.</i>	“he moved with a majesty only achieved by royalty and master craftsmen.”
<i>Through Slim Steinbeck seems to be suggesting that many of our dreams can be silly and immature (re. CW’s dream of becoming a movie star): Slim achieves an almost religious state of calm contentment</i> <i>Slim’s character shows no sign of needing to move on or of being particularly unhappy – he is a role model for the other men.</i>	“There was a gravity in his manner and a quiet so profound that all talk stopped when he spoke” “authority” “His ear heard more than was said to him, and his slow speech had overtones not of thought, but of understanding beyond thought”. “calm Godlike eyes”
<i>Slim provides George with an opportunity to “open up”. The fact that George, a very cautious character, is able to do this demonstrates the trust that Slim inspires.</i>	“He just sat back quiet and receptive.” “You wouldn’t tell? ... No, ‘course you wouldn’t”
<i>Slim’s lack of insecurity is displayed by the fact that he is the only character able to flirt openly (and harmlessly) with Curley’s Wife. Similarly Curley is unable to bully or intimidate him as he does the other men.</i>	“Hi good lookin’” “Nobody don’t know what Slim can do.” “If you can’t look after your own God damn wife, what you expect me to do about it? You lay offa me.”
<i>Despite Slim’s sense of place and his status amongst the men on the ranch Slim seems to understand that life is hard and that difficult choices often need to be made.</i> <i>He is unsentimental in drowning some of his puppies; he sides with the brutal Carlson in deciding the fate of Candy’s dog (though her makes him take a shovel, demonstrating a humanity that others lack); and he is the only character who understands what happens at the end of the novel when George kills Lennie.</i> <i>Despite Slim’s power and status he is unable to prevent Curley seeking revenge on Lennie.</i>	“I drowned four of ‘em straight off” “That dog ain’t no good to himself.” “You hadda, George. I swear you hadda.” “Curley – maybe you better stay here with your wife.”
<i>Slim is the man that the other men on the ranch aspire to be. While he doesn’t seem to have dreams of his own his presence acts as a counterpoint to the frailties and weaknesses of the other men.</i> <i>For example, he communicates with Crooks without a trace of the casual racism shown by the other men.</i>	“Slim’s opinions were law.” “Nobody been here but Slim.”