

Circle Discussion Questions

Directions:

Use specific support from the novella, *Of Mice and Men*, to answer the questions below. You can use your responses during our in-class discussion. Upload your responses to Google Classroom. Be prepared to participate in our final discussion. Please consult the [discussion rubric](#).

1. *Of Mice and Men* feels like an allegory, with each character possessing a specific trait that represents something or some group in society. So, is the book just a heavy-handed lecture about how nasty people are to each other? Are all of these wrongs (racism, sexism, discrimination) treated as equally evil? Or are the characters real, individual people, rather than being merely types/symbols?

2. The natural world is often described as beautiful and peaceful in the book, though it's tempered with all sorts of awful occurrences. What role does the natural world actually play in the novel?

3. How are the notions of power and shifts in power important here? Who has power and why? Are there different types of power?

4. Does George have the right to kill Lennie? Legally? What about ethically? How does Steinbeck's treatment of Lennie's murder affect the way the reader interprets the event? What does George's action suggest about justice—within the play and in the world as a whole?

5. What is Steinbeck saying about dreams? Is the book's take-home message inherently pessimistic one? Should we all just give up and stop dreaming? Support and explain your response.