

Of Mice and Men Character Chart

Directions: Below fill in the chart. Use quotes when needed and page numbers.

Character	Physical Appearance	Personality & Behavior
George Milton	Small & quick. Strong hands and a thin, bony nose.	Leader. Looks after Lennie. Although he frequently speaks of how much better his life would be without his caretaking responsibilities, George is obviously devoted to Lennie. George's behavior is motivated by the desire to protect Lennie and, eventually, deliver them both to the farm of their dreams. Though George is the source of the often-told story of life on their future farm, it is Lennie's childlike faith that enables George to actually believe his account of their future.
Lennie Small	Huge man with a shapeless face and sloping shoulders. Walks heavily, dragging feet. Described as "strong as a bull" p. 22.	Follower. Mentally impaired. Loves soft things: mice, rabbits, a woman's dress, hair. Hard worker. Simple minded like a child. Due to his mild mental disability, Lennie completely depends upon George, his friend and traveling companion, for guidance and protection. The two men share a vision of a farm that they will own together, a vision that Lennie believes in wholeheartedly. Gentle and kind, Lennie nevertheless does not understand his own strength. His love of petting soft things, such as small animals, dresses, and people's hair, leads to disaster.
Slim	A quiet, insightful man. Big & tall with long black hair. Between 35-50 with large, lean hands.	A leader and highly skilled mule driver. At peace with himself. The other characters look to him for advice. Only after Slim agrees does Candy agree to put his dog out of his misery and let Carlson shoot it. Slim understands the bond between George and Lennie, and he comforts George at the book's end.
Candy	Old man with a missing hand.	Ranch handyman, Candy lost his hand in an accident and worries about his future on the ranch. Fearing that his age is making him useless, he seizes on George's description of the farm he and Lennie will have, offering his life's savings if he can join George and

		Lennie in owning the land.
Crooks	Black man with a crooked back.	The black stable-hand gets his name from his crooked back. Proud, bitter, and caustically funny, he is isolated from the other men because of the color of his skin. Reads a lot; self educated. Despite himself, Crooks becomes fond of Lennie, and though he derisively claims to have seen countless men following empty dreams of buying their own land, he asks Lennie if he can go with them and hoe in the garden.
Carlson	Powerful, big stomached man.	An insensitive ranch-hand, Carlson complains bitterly about Candy's old, smelly dog. He convinces Candy to put the dog out of its misery. When Candy finally agrees, Carlson promises to execute the task without causing the animal any suffering.
Curley	A short, thin young man with a brown face, brown eyes and tightly curled hair. Curley wears high-heeled boots and spurs to distinguish himself from the field hands.	The boss's son. Rumored to be a champion prizefighter, he is a confrontational, mean-spirited, and aggressive young man who seeks to compensate for his small stature by picking fights with larger men. Recently married, Curley is plagued with jealous suspicions and is extremely possessive of his flirtatious young wife.
Curley's Wife	Dressed in fancy, feathered red shoes, with rouged lips and eyes made up and painted fingernails. Curcly hair is in rolled clusters.	The only female character in the story, Curley's wife is never given a name and is only mentioned in reference to her husband. The men on the farm refer to her as a "tramp," a "tart," and a "looloo." Steinbeck depicts Curley's wife not as a villain, but rather as a victim. Like the ranch-hands, she is desperately lonely and has broken dreams of a better life. She represents the temptation of female sexuality in a male-dominated world.
Whit		A ranch-hand
Aunt Clara		Lennie's aunt, who cared for him until her death, does not actually appear in the work except at the end, as a vision chastising Lennie for causing trouble for George. By all accounts, she was a kind, patient woman who took good care of Lennie and gave him plenty of mice to pet.

<p>The Boss</p>	<p>A little stocky man who is described as being well dressed.</p>	<p>Curley's father. He is in charge of the ranch. He is never named and appears only once, but seems to be a fair-minded man. Candy happily reports that the boss once delivered a gallon of whiskey to the ranch-hands on Christmas Day.</p>
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