**Chapter One**

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**acres** (n.): An **acre** is an area of land equal to 4,840 square yards or 43,560 square feet. For comparison, a football field is 45,000 square feet, so one acre is a little smaller than a football field.

**anguished** (adj.): **anguish** is a feeling of great physical or mental pain. The look on Lennie's face would show the mental pain he feels at the thought of George leaving him.

**bank** (n.): the part of land that meets a body of water

**bindle** (n.): a small bundle of items rolled up inside a blanket and carried over the shoulder or on the back; a bedroll. See a [**picture of a man carrying a bindle**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/bindle.html)

**brusquely** (adv.): quickly; bluntly; abruptly; almost rudely

**bucking** (v.): To **buck** in this instance is to throw large bags of grain on a truck. Barley is poured into large burlap bags (75 or more pounds) and passed brigade-style (in a line) to the truck.

**carp** (n.): a freshwater fish. See some [**pictures of carp**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/carp.html)

**cat house** (n.): whore house; house of prostitution

**contemplated** (v.) To **contemplate** something is to think about it. Lennie is thinking about running away.

**'coons** (n.): raccoons. See one in [**this picture**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/raccoon.html)

**current** (n.): the strong flow of water in a definite direction

**debris** (n.): remains. In this case, the "**debris** of the winter's flooding" would be drops of water falling from the leaves of the tree.

**elaborate** (adj.): expressed in great detail

**flats** (n.): level, flat ground

**heron** (n.): a wading bird (that is, a bird that is often found wading in the water, usually in a search for food) with a long neck, beak, and legs. See some [**pictures of heron**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/heron.html)

**junctures** (n.):A **juncture** is where two things come together. The **juncture** of a willow leaf is where the two sides of the leaf meet in the center.

**mimicking** (v.): imitating

**morosely** (adv.): in a sad, gloomy manner

**mottled** (adj.): having a variety of hues or colors; variegated, like marble

**periscope** (n.): a device that, through a series of mirrors and prisms, allows one to view something not directly in the line of sight. **Periscopes** are used on submarines to allow the sailors to see above the waterline.

**rabbit hutch** (n.): A type of cage for keeping rabbits.

**recumbent** (adj.): still; without movement

**reeds** (n.): tall grass with hollow stems, often found in or near water. See a [**picture of some water reeds.**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/reeds.html)

**single file** (n.):a line of people, animals, or things moving one after the other. Instead of walking side by side, George and Lennie walk in **single file**; George first, then Lennie behind him.

**stake** (n.): an amount of money

**stilted** (adj.): In the instance, **stilted** refers to the legs of the [**heron**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/vocb1.html#anchor1977410) which are very long and thin, like stilts.

**sycamores** (n.): a type of shade tree with leaves resembling the leaves of a maple tree. See a [**picture of a sycamore tree**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/sycamore.html)

**thrashin' machines** (n): Thrashing machines, sometimes called threshers or threshing machines, are used on farms to separate the grain or seed from the straw of such plants as barley or wheat. See some [**pictures of threshing machines**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/threshers.html)**.**

**tramps** (n.): In this case, a **tramp** is a person who travels about on foot, usually doing odd jobs for a living (To "tramp" means to travel on foot).

**unslung** (v.): removed; took off

**wearily** (adv.): tired; in a tired way

**willows** (n.): a type of tree with narrow leaves and strong, flexible twigs and branches. See a [**picture of willows**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/willow.html)**.**



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**Chapter Two**

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**abruptly** (adv.): suddenly; almost rudely

**apprehensive** (adj.): anxious; fearful

**archly** (adv.): playfully

**axles** (n.): bars connecting two opposite wheels

**bale** (n.): a large bundle of something that has been compressed and tied together. Grains such as hay, wheat, and barley are often made into **bales** after they're harvested.

**barley** (n.): a type of cereal grass. The grain from the barley plant is often used for making malts and for animal feed. See a [**picture of barley**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/barley.html).

**bitch** (n.): a female dog

**blacksmith** (n.): a person who works with iron, especially in the making of horseshoes. See some [**pictures of blacksmiths at work**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/blacksmith.html)

**bridled** (v.): to pull one's head back in anger or pride; especially when one feels one has been offended

**bristled** (adj.): stiff and prickly

**bristly** (adj.): stiff and prickly

**brusquely** (adv.): roughly; abruptly

**buckers** (n.): people who [**buck**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/vocb1.html#anchor2749062) grain bags

**bunk house** (n): a building that provides sleeping quarters for workers on a ranch or farm.

**bunks** (n): beds

**burlap** (n.): a coarse, inexpensive, woven fabric; often used for making grain sacks

**calculating** (adj.): shrewd; scheming

**cesspool** (n.): a deep hole in the ground into which sewage from sinks, toilets, etc. is drained.

**cockier** (adj.): To be **cocky** is to be conceited, overbearing, and aggressive.

**complacently** (adv.): in a pleased, satisfied manner

**cultivator** (n.): a large farm machine used for cultivation (the preparation of the earth for planting). See some [**pictures of cultivators**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/cultivator.html).

**derogatory** (adj.): belittling and insulting

**dinner** (n.): the major meal of the day. In this case, **dinner** is served in the middle of the day.

**disengage** (v.): free

**dousing** (n): to **douse** is to be drenched with liquid. A **dousing** refers to someone having been covered with a liquid, in this case water, during a washing.

**dragfooted** (adj.) lame; dragging a lame foot

**gingerly** (adv.): in a careful, cautious way

**grain teams** (n): A **team** is two or more horses harnessed to a wagon or other drawn vehicle. **Grain teams** would be the **teams** (horses and wagons) used to haul grain in from the fields.

**graybacks** (n.): lice; parasites. Lice are small, wingless insects that live off the blood of other animals. See a [**picture of a louse**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/louse.html)

**grizzled** (adj.): gray

**handy** (adj.): clever with one's hands; especially, in this case, in terms of fighting

**harness** (n.): the leather straps and metal pieces by which a horse or mule is fastened to a vehicle. See a [**picture of various pieces of horse harness**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/harness.html)

**hatchet face** (n): a [**lean**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/vocb2.html#anchor4138930), sharp face

**heavy-laden** (adj.) heavily loaded

**insteps** (n.): the parts of the shoes between the toe and the ankle

**jerkline skinner**

**laboring** (adj.): working, particularly work that involves physical labor.

**lamely** (adv.): To be **lame** is to be crippled; especially to have an injured leg or foot.

**lashed** (v.): swung around quickly

**lean** (adj.): thin

**leaves** (n.): pages

**levelly** (adv.): Something that is **level** is flat and horizontal. To stare at someone **levelly** is to stare at that person straight on -- not looking up nor down.

**lice**: a type of parasite. See a [**picture of a louse**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/louse.html).

**lightweight** (n.): a boxer who weighs between 127 - 135 pounds

**liniment** (n.): a medicated liquid rubbed on the skin to ease sore muscles and sprains

**mollified** (adj.): soothed; pacified

**mules** (n): a type of shoe or slipper than does not cover the heal. See a [**picture of a pair of mules**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/mules.html).

**muzzle** (n.): the projecting part (the part that sticks out) of a dogs head that includes the mouth, nose, and jaw.

**nosey** (adj.): nosy. A **nosey** person is one who tends to pry into the business of others.

**ominously** (adv.): in a threatening way

**peered** (v.): To **peer** is to look closely or **squint** at something to see it more clearly.

**pocket** (n.): in this instance, a **pocket** would be a hollow or cavity in the land filled with gold ore

**precede** (v.): go before or ahead of

**pugnacious** (adj.): eager and ready to fight

**rectangular** (adj.): A **rectangle** is a shape that is longer than it is wide. The **rectangular** bunk house is a building that is longer than it is wide.

**rouged** (adj.): colored red, as with lipstick

**scourges** (n.): a **scourge** is anything that inflicts discomfort or suffering; in this case, any variety of insects and pests

**scowled** (v.): a **scowl** is an angry look achieved by frowning and scrunching the eyebrows together.

**sheep dog** (n.): a breed of dog trained to herd sheep. See a [**picture of a sheep dog**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/sheepdog.html).

**shepherds** (n.): dogs bred to herd sheep. See a [**picture of a shepherd**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/shepherd.html)

**skeptically** (adv.): To be **skeptical** is doubt or question something. George is doubting that the bunk house, and especially his mattress, is really clean

**slough** (v): get rid of

**soiled** (adj.): dirty; stained

**solitaire lay** (n): **Solitaire** is a one-person game of cards. A **solitaire lay** is the set up of the cards at the beginning of the game. See a [**picture of a solitaire lay**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/solitaire.html).

**spurs** (n.): sharp, pointed metal devices worn on the heels of a boots, used to urge on horses when riding. See a [**picture of spurs**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/spurs.html).

**squinted** (v.): To **squint** one's eyes is to look or peer with the eyes partly closed or narrowed.

**squirmed** (v.): twisted and turned; wriggled

**stable buck** (n.): a **stable** is a building where horses are kept. A **buck**, in this case, is a [**derogatory**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/vocb2.html#anchor3601562) word for a black man. A **staple buck**, then, would be a black man who works in a stable.

**stocky** (adj.): heavily and solidly built

**swamper** (n.): a handyman; someone who performs odd jobs often involving cleaning

**tart** (n.) a woman of loose morals; one who is prone to be sexually unfaithful

**tick** (n.) mattress covering

**ticking** (n.): the cloth case for a mattress. In this instance, the cloth case was made from [**burlap**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/vocb_all.html#anchor3417172).

**time book** (n): a book used to record the hours of workers

**trace chains** (n): the chains that connect a horse's harness to a vehicle

**tramp** (n.): In this case, a **tramp** is a woman of loose morals who is sexually promiscuous

**vials** (n.): small bottles

**viciously** (adv.): cruelly; in a mean way

**wheeler** (n.): the horse harnessed nearest to the front wheels of a vehicle



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**Chapter Three**

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**alfalfa**: a plant widely grown for animal feed. See a [**picture of a field of alfalfa**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/alfalfa.html)**.**

**barrel**: the long part of a gun through which the bullet travels when it is fired

**bemused**: preoccupied; deep in thought

**bleated**: A **bleat** is the cry usually associated with a goat, sheep, or calf. In this case, Lennie cries out with terror in an animal-like way.

**candy wagon**: a crew bus or truck used for transporting people

**chamber**: the part of the gun that holds the next bullet to be shot

**'cots**: apricots. See some in [**this picture**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/apricot.html)**.**

**cowering**: To **cower** is to shrink and tremble from fear.

**crouched**: To **crouch** is to bend low with arms and legs drawn close to the body.

**defensively**: To be **defensive** is to be on guard against attack, be it verbal or physical. George is on guard against an attack about his relationship with Lennie.

**derision**: To **deride** someone is to make fun of that person. The sound of voices of **derision** would be the sound of people making fun of, or laughing at, another.

**does** (n.): female rabbits

**dusk** (n.): shadowy; gloomy (**dusk** is the period of time that comes just before dark or evening)

**ejector**: the mechanism of a gun that throws out the empty cartridge of a fired bullet

**euchre**: a card game

**hands**: workers

**loaded shell**: an unfired bullet

**magazine**: the part of the gun that holds the bullets

**orchard** (n.): an area where many fruit or nut trees are planted. See a [**picture of a pecan orchard**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/orchard.html).

**pig pen**: a **pen**, in this case, is a small enclosures for animals. A **pig pen** is a small enclosure for pigs.

**receptive**: able and willing to listen to and accept information, new ideas, etc. Slim is willing to listen to what George is about to tell him.

**reprehensible**: To **reprehend** someone is to reprimand or criticize that person. Something that is **reprehensible** is something that is deserving of criticism.

**rheumatism**: a painful condition involving the joints and muscles

**run**: an enclosure for animals in which they can exercise, feed, etc.

**sarcastically**: in a mean way; bitterly

**setter dog** (n): A **setter** is any of several breeds of long-haired dogs usually trained to work with hunters. See some [**pictures of various types of setters**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/setter.html)**.**

**slug**: a single drink; especially of alcohol

**smoke** (v.): Many meats and fish can be preserved by the means of smoking. To **smoke** meat is to expose it for a length of time to

**smoke house**: a building where meat or fish is cured (prepared) by means of dense smoke. See a [**picture of a smoke house**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/smokehouse.html).

**thong**: a narrow strip of material; in this case, leather



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**Chapter Four**

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**aloof** (adj.): distant; removed; cool

**appraised**: judged

**arouse**: to excite; bring about

**blackjack game**: a gambling card game; also known as "Twenty-One"

**champing** (v.): chewing noisily

**contemptuously**: full of contempt or **scorn**

**ego**: sense of self; self-awareness

**hame** (n.): the piece along the side of a horse collar to which the [**trace chains**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/vocb2.html#anchor4123206) are attached

**intensity** (n.): great strength and sharpness

**keg** (n.): a small barrel

**mauled** (adj.): torn; worn-out. To **maul** something is to treat it roughly or clumsily.

**meager** (adj.): of poor quality or small amount

**persuasive** (adj.): convincing

**riveter** (n.): a tool used to fasten rivets. Rivets are small metal bolts or pins used to attach fabric and leather pieces together

**rummy** (n.): a card game

**scornful**: **Scorn** is a feeling of contempt for someone or something; the belief that a person or thing is worthless. Crooks is **scornful** of Lennie because he thinks Lennie's plan is nothing more than a dream.

**spectacles** (n.): eyeglasses

**subsided**: became less excited; calmed down

**twict**: a sharp, sudden punch

**whinnied**: the low, gently sound (sometimes called a "neigh") that a horse makes



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**Chapters Five and Six**

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**craftily** (adv.): in a sly, cunning manner

**darkly** (adv.): deeply; richly; secretly

**drawn** (v.): To **draw** someone out is to get that person to talk. Curley's wife cannot get Lennie to talk to her.

**dugs** (n.): nipples; teets

**emphasis** (n.): force; expression; stress

**fainter** (adj.): weaker; dimmer; unclear

**gingham** (n.): a cotton cloth, usually woven in stripes or checks. See some [**samples of gingham**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/gingham.html)

**gust** (n.): a strong, sudden rush of air

**hovered** (v.): lingered; stayed suspended

**jack-pin** (n.): Also known as a belaying pin, a **jack pin** is a removable wooden or metal pin inserted in the rail of ships around which ropes can be fastened. See a [**picture of a jack pin**.](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/jackpin.html)

**monotonous** (adj.): flat, with no expression

**pulley** (n.): a small wheel with a grove or rim in which a rope or chain runs. **Pulleys** are used with ropes or chains to left heavy items. See [**pictures of various types of pulleys.**](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/pulley.html)

**snooker** (n.): a type of pool game. Find out [**more about snooker**.](http://www.stud.ifi.uio.no/~hermunda/Snooker/home.cgi)

**sulkily** (adv.): in a gloomy manner

**sullenly** (adv.): sadly; in a depressing and gloomy way

**taloned** (adj.): A **talon** is a finger-like claw. A four-**taloned** fork would be a fork with four "claws."

**wisps** (n.): tiny, slight strands or pieces

**writhed** (v.): twisted