

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (1937)

George & Lennie were homeless hobos during the great depression. They were born in Auburn, CA & George took care of him after Lennie's aunt died. Lennie was strong, but slow. He liked to pet soft things like mice, but would kill it when it bit him. He got in trouble up north when he wanted to feel a girl's dress. They had to leave town quick. They would dream about buying a farm and they would have rabbits to pet.

They started working for a farm on the Salinas River [near Monterey, CA]. Curley was the boss' son & his wife was a flirt. They both were trouble. Slim was the foreman & a good man. The old man, Candy, heard them talking about their dream & said he had \$350 & wanted in with them [they had nothing yet]. So, they agreed to save. Curley was a boxer looking for a fight. He punched Lennie & Lennie grabbed him by the fist & lifted him off the floor [broke his hand].

Spoiler Alert!!! Don't read further if you want to read the book without knowing the ending.

Slim gave Lennie a puppy, but Lennie was not gentle with it & it died. Curley's wife came into the barn when he was still petting the dead pup. He said he liked soft things. She said her hair was soft & he could feel it. But she screamed when he wouldn't let go. He covered her mouth & she died. He ran.

A posse went looking for him. George found him at the river & they talked about their dream. Lennie was killed that night.

Books: Grapes of Wrath (Steinbeck)

Quote: "I done a bad thing." (Lennie)

Definitions:

3 – bindle = bundle

4 – morosely = grumpily

8 – lumbered = got

31 – tart =

42 – derision = scorn

53 – euchre = card game

61 – hoosegow = jail

91 – crestfallen = downcast