

a) George and Lennie's dream is an ongoing theme of 'Of Mice And Men' throughout the entire novel. In this extract, the language used helps the reader to paint a mental picture of the farm they are hoping to buy.

George and Lennie are hoping to achieve their own version of the American Dream, and this <sup>dream</sup> for them is a way to escape from the monotony and <sup>hard</sup> labour of ranch life. ~~the~~ \* To build up the scale of their hopes, he uses repetition of the word 'Got' to form a long list of items they will own. This builds to an excited speech which helps the reader understand how much they are looking forward to their own farm. However, the sheer amount of ideas they have, such as 'cherries, apples, peaches, 'cots...' suggests that this really is a dream, and it is unlikely the hypothetical situation will come true. This is backed up by the use of the conditional tense such as 'we could' instead of 'we will', which shows the uncertainty of their future.

Steinbeck particularly uses <sup>descriptive language.</sup> ~~adjectives~~ to portray a vivid image of the ranch. Adjectives such as 'plenty' exaggerate their dream further, and the semantic field of nature is used; words such as 'orchard' and 'river' can be linked with the idea of paradise, or at least an idyllic location, so the reader can identify with why George and Lennie are so passionate about it. The <sup>long</sup> florid sentences build up a lilting rhythm, almost as if George is telling a story directly to the reader as well as to Lennie. ~~Even~~ Although, the ~~ess~~ nature of a story is that it is fictional, which also hints that their dream might not come true.

Language such as 'wide eyes' presents the tone of wistfulness which is present through the extract. This longing is <sup>especially</sup> ~~also~~ for independence, as is shown through Lennie saying 'An' I'd take care of 'em.', as part of their dream is not having to rely on other ranch workers / the boss to be able to survive. It is also clear through the line 'we'd have our own place where we belonged' that it is important for George and Lennie to fit in, as the bunkhouse is a very isolating place for workers - as the only two workers who travel ~~to~~ together, Lennie and George don't feel they belong in the bunkhouse.

\* The way Candy 'watched George carefully' suggests he would like ~~to~~ to share in this dream they have as ~~he~~ he has no other hope for the future.

Some of the language used shows the passion that Lennie and George feel about the future. George is generally quite emotionless and reserved, so 'his voice was growing warmer' suggests that he is secretly very passionate about this dream, despite his apparent reluctance to describe it again. Lennie's character also appears to change ~~as~~ in this passage, as he says 'You God damn right I could'; this shows he is fiercely excited about their farm, in contrast to his previously docile speech.

By helping the reader visualise George and Lennie's dream farm, Steinbeck shows the importance of hope and independence in their lives, developing the theme of dreams throughout the book.

(SECTION A CONTINUED)

b) On pages 96-97 in Chapter 5, Curley's wife's dream of being in the movies is introduced. It is the first time we begin to get to know her character in depth, as previously in the book she is isolated from other characters. Due to this, she <sup>talks</sup> ~~speaks~~ very quickly<sup>about her dream.</sup>, 'her words tumbled out in a passion of communication', as she is not often listened to.

This links to her desperation for attention - Steinbeck writes 'She demanded, 'You listenin'?' ~~as~~ to

emphasise how she almost needs Lennie to understand her passion for her dream. The dream itself is about performance, as she mentions 'Hollywood' and the 'Riverside Dance Palace'; she has spent her life dreaming of being popular and appreciated, so it is ironic that instead she is ignored by <sup>the</sup> ranch workers and prejudiced against as a woman. Even though she is only talking to Lennie, who is one of the least respected workers at the ranch due to his mental illness, she 'looks closely... to see whether she was impressing him'. This could suggest that although her dream is important to her, now that she knows it's never going to happen she relies on exaggerating her past in an attempt to impress.

(Section A continued)

Curley's wife <sup>is</sup> <sup>nopes</sup> also appears very naïve. She talks in simple sentences with childlike grammar, such as 'coulda been in the movies, an' had nice clothes', which emphasise she is still quite a young girl, even though the men just see her as a tart. Steinbeck repeats this sentence structure many times, reinforcing her <sup>childlike</sup> eagerness.

The dream in itself is similar to that of a young child wanting to be a movie star, so she appears innocent, yet ~~the~~ very few people achieve that dream as it is unrealistic. The dream also seems unbelievable as she 'made a small, grand gesture with her arm and hand' which

is the sort of acting you do to pretend you're a good actress, meaning she may never have been good enough anyway. She also gave up on her dream without much of a fight and married Curley, so it is possible she never thought of it seriously either. Steinbeck uses irony again when Curley's wife says 'I wasn't gonna stay... where I couldn't get nowhere' - she thought that by marrying Curley and living on a ranch (which was a popular dream ~~in~~ in the 1930s) that she would be happy, but she's not.

Later in the chapter where Curley's wife is killed, it seems as if her dream has come true, as in death she finally gets attention; that event is foreshadowed in this passage where she says 'darkly'

'Maybe I will yet', suggesting she still has a chance to get her dream of attention. This could also imply that dreams can only be achieved through death, which is echoed through other events in the book.

Her dream is very showy and impressive compared to George and Lennie's dream, yet Steinbeck uses vague, weak adjectives such as 'nice' and 'big' repeatedly, so Curley's wife appears to know very few actual details about Hollywood. It makes the reader feel quite sad to know that she turned against her family and married a bully because of a childhood dream.