

Regional Group Meetings Spring 2011

A663/02

Prose from Different
Cultures

Scripts: A, B

cyclical nature of events and finally reveals to the reader that they were doomed from the very start. The foreshadowing techniques used earlier in the book also now resonate within the reader's mind, for example the experience with Candy's dog and his regret over its death, "I ought to of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't ought to of let no stranger shoot my dog." The reader may not know it but this carries directly through to the end when George understands Candy's guilt and sense of betrayal and does not want to make the same mistake he did. The reader becomes torn; they do not want Lennie to die yet simultaneously they know it is the kindest thing to do, the ultimate act of friendship.

troubles

needs response

Sadness is also created by the contrast between Lennie and George in the final scene. George is solemn and quiet and nervous whereas Lennie is happy and joyous, oblivious to his impending demise, "Lennie giggled with happiness. 'An' live on the fatta the lan'." This makes the reader feel sorry for Lennie as he still believes in the great dream which is about to be completely dashed. This is a fairly dangerous technique Steinbeck uses as it could create resentment towards George if the reader interprets Lennie's death as pointless or callous. This is cleverly avoided however when Steinbeck shows how much George is struggling to perform his act of mercy, "George raised the gun and his hand shook, and he dropped his hand to the ground again." This makes the reader feel sorry for George as well so they cannot escape feeling immense sorrow in any case. The reader does not want Lennie to die, George does not want Lennie to die, yet it is made clear that it is the kindest thing to do given

response to being

response to being



the horrifying circumstances:

When Lennie is finally shot a feeling of regret is created as ~~the~~ Steinbeck writes, "Lennie jared, and then settled slowly forward to the sand, and he lay without quivering." The reader feels that Lennie's hard work and extreme dedication to the dream and its ultimate achievement were not deserving of a quick and ~~and~~ seemingly meaningless end. Although an act of compassion and nearly painless, the fact that he simply settles to the ground seems unsatisfying and unfair in some ways: Steinbeck then uses George as the representative of the general reader (a clever technique which allows the reader to feel connected to the story and empathise ~~with~~ with at least some of the characters) as he writes, "George shivered and looked at the gun, and then he threw it from him, back up on the bank." This recreates the reader's yell of terror at the ending and the desire to distance one's self from the deed ~~in~~ as an attempt to deny that such a devastating act ever took place.

Steinbeck truly throws everything he has at the reader in this final section, revealing the shock and horror ~~of~~ of these events but also showing the reader that they ~~already~~ knew from the very beginning that ~~it~~ would happen, they just denied it. The memory of the foreshadowing symbols like Lennie killing the mouse and the puppy and finally Curley's Wife all show the reader the inevitability of the outcome, thus plunging them into sadness and giving the effect of true emotive understanding onto them.

1a Steinbeck makes this such a shocking moment in the novel because Curly's wife speaks to Crooks in a awful manner, "Listen nigger," she treats him like he is a peice of dirt on her shoes. This part of the novel is such a shocking moment as ~~the~~ Crooks goes from having his head up straight to being put down into a tiny little thing, "Crooks seemed to grow smaller."

This part of the novel is shocking as it proves that not only Crooks but Candy is just as disadvantaged as him "Nobody'd listen to us." This part is really shocking because Candy's treated badly because he's old, Lennie because of his mental disability and Crooks because of his colour. Steinbeck shows here that if there was something wrong with you back when it was the great depression no one would listen to you.

Curly's wife is also another lonely character in the novel, and ~~so this tells you that~~ she also has no control over anybody except from Crooks and she will use this "... you keep your place then, Nigger." This is really shocking as it ~~tells~~ you that because she is that lonely she will speak to him in a wrong manner ~~because~~ because of his skin colour, but if she was a free person she wouldn't of done this as she would of got to know him.

Steinbeck uses symbols in the Novel ~~book~~ "Crooks seemed to grow smaller", this he gives a sign that Curly's ^{wife} is a predator and her prey is

Crooks. As Crooks can't do anything about this it tells you he is weak and she will get him!

Also Curly is very protective towards ^{his} wife, "we won't tell Curly you was here", this is yet again another shocking part because it tells you that because she married him she has no freedom and just has to sit at the house all day. Also it tells you that even though he married her he doesn't trust her. ~~as the man~~ This is shocking for Curly's wife as she has no freedom and her own husband can't give her freedom or treat her properly. "Sometimes I'd like to bust him myself." This tells you that she is sick of Curly as he doesn't let her do what she wants and as he doesn't trust her. We feel sympathy for Curly's wife as she married a man who can't even love her back.

Another way this part of the novel is shocking is when Crooks ^{whom he} ~~is~~ ^{goes} quiet when Curly's wife ^{attacks} ~~attacked~~ him. "There was no personality, no ego - nothing to arouse either like or dislike." This is very moving as it explains to you how Crooks reacted when Curly's wife replied. It shows that he has had so many years of experience of people making him feel unimportant that he is used to going into a quiet mode. It tells you that he has lost every bit of hope, he loses every bit of happiness and sadness in him. It's like he is a statue with no feelings. Jim -

Makes this ~~read~~ moving as you feel really sympathy for Crooks as he ~~is~~ is disadvantaged in many different ways.

Overall Steinbeck makes this whole part extremely shocking as it shows the loneliness of these 4 characters. It also shows that Curley's wife will do whatever she wants ~~to~~ ^{to} Crooks to make him feel ~~un~~ unimpowered. This part is really shocking as well as sad as every single one of them are disadvantaged in one way.

Understanding of some features of language and context but not developed.

19