

Study Guide—Of Mice and Men

Chapter 2

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel.

Swamper: handyman; someone who performs odd jobs—such as cleaning. Refers to the character Candy.

Tick: mattress covering

Stable buck: a *stable* is a building where horses are kept. A *buck*, in this case, is a derogatory word for a black man. A **stable buck**, then, would be a black man who works in a stable.

Skinner: a mule driver

Cesspool a disgusting or corrupt place

Ominously (25) giving the impression that something bad will happen

Pugnacious eager or quick to argue

Derogatory (26) showing a critical or disrespectful attitude

Mollified (23) appease the anger or anxiety of someone

Plaintively (27) sounding sad or mournful

Brusquely (29) abrupt or offhand in speech or manner

Complacently (32) a feeling of being satisfied with how things are and not wanting to try to make them better

II. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the novel.

dialect a particular form of a language specific to a region or social group

novella a short novel

irony words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning
What is an example of something ironic from this chapter? _____

Direct characterization writer says the personality of character

Indirect characterization writer shows something about the character

III. QUESTIONS: answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.