**Candy – important events and quotations**

**Introduction – explain who Candy is, what he does, his dog, why he’s important to the story and any themes or ideas that are linked to him.**

**Then write about each of the 7 sections below. Explain how each section tells us a bit about Candy as a character. Use some of the quotations given, but also look for your own too.**

**1 – meeting George and Lennie (pages 38 to 42)**

“out of the sleeve came a round stick-like wrist, but no hand”

* It mentions his injury straight away. Why?

“Ya see the stable buck’s a nigger… nice fella too. Got a crooked back where a horse kicked him. The boss gives him hell when he’s mad. But the stable buck don’t give a damn about that. He read a lot. Got books in his room.”

* Look at how Candy describes Crooks, but then says nice things about him. Why? Candy has noticed his books – what does that say about Candy and his role?

**2 – Candy being there when Curley becomes aggressive towards George and Lennie (page 45 to 50)**

“The old man came slowly into the room… at his heels there walked a drag-footed sheep dog, gray of muzzle, and with pale, blind old eyes. The dog struggled lamely to the side of the room and lay down, grunting softly to himself and licking his grizzled, moth-eaten coat.”

* Look at the words chosen to describe the dog. What similarities are there between the dog and Candy? Why does the author make this comparison?

“A guy on a ranch don’t never listen nor he don’t ast no questions”

* Why does he say this? What has he been taught? What does it say about his life?

**3 – Candy’s dog is shot (page 70 to 76)**

Carlson: “Got no teeth. He’s (the dog) all stiff with rheumatism. He aint no good to you, Candy. And he aint no good to himself. Why don’t you shoot him, Candy?”

* What does ‘no good to himself’ mean? How is Candy feeling? How is the author linking him and the dog again?

Candy: “Maybe it’d hurt him”

* Why is this effective? What is Candy thinking about? How do we and him feel?

“Candy looked for help from face to face. It was quite dark outside now.”

* Why does he look for help? How does he feel? What could the darkness represent?

“Candy said hopefully, ‘you aint got no gun’”

Candy: “Maybe tomorra. Le’s wait till tomorra.”

* How do those both tell us about his thoughts? Look carefully at word choice.

“Candy looked a long time at Slim to try to find some reversal. And Slim gave him none. At last Candy said softly and hopelessly, ‘Awright – take ‘im’. He did not lok down at the dog at all. He lay back on his bunk and crossed his arms behind his head and stared at the ceiling.”

* Look carefully at how each sentence shows his thoughts (and the surrounding atmosphere) changing.

“The silence came into the room. And the silence lasted”

“The silence fell on the room again. It came out of the night and invaded the room.”

“The silence fell on the room again”

* Look at the repetition here. How does Candy feel? Why repeat it? What could the silence represent? Why is this very atmospheric and effective?

“A shot sounded in the distance. The men looked quickly at the old man. Every head turned toward him. For a moment he continued to stare at the ceiling. Then he rolled slowly over and faced the wall and lay silent.”

* Look carefully at word choice and sentence length here. How does it show his feelings? How does it create a tense and very sad atmosphere? Compare his life/what you expect of a ranch worker to the emotion he is displaying/trying to hide.

**4 – Candy overhearing George and Lennie’s dream and wanting to be part of it (page 86 to 89)**

“Candy went on excitedly, ‘How much they want for a place like that?’”

* Look at his emotion. What is he thinking?

“Candy said, ‘I aint much good with on’y one hand. I lost my hand right here on this ranch. That’s why they gave me a job swampin’”

“I aint much good, but I could cook and tend the chickens and hoe the garden some. How’d that be?”

* How does Candy feel about his life/situation? Look at what he can and can’t do. What does it say about him?

“They’ll can me purty soon. Jus’ as soon as I can’t swamp out no bunk houses they’ll put me on the county. Maybe if I give you guys me money, you’ll let me hoe in the garden even after I aint no good at it. An I’ll wash dishes an’ little chicken stuff like that. But I’ll be on our own place, an’ I’ll be let to work on our own place.”

* How does he sees his future? What are his feelings? What does he want?

“You seen what they done to my dog tonight? They says he wasn’t no good to himself nor nobody else. When they can me I wisht somebody’d shoot me. But they won’t do nothing like that. I won’t have no place to go, an’ I can’t get no more jobs.”

* How does this show he’s desperate to be part of the dream? Why? Why does he compare himself to the dog? How/why is this effective? How does it make us feel towards him?

**5 – Candy in Crooks’ room and talking to Curley’s wife (page 108 to 109)**

Candy: (talking about getting their own place to Crooks) “You god damn right we’re gonna do it. George says we are. We got the money right now.”

* Look at his language; how does it show his belief in the dream? What is he trying to prove to Crooks?

Candy: “I planted crobs for damn near ever’body in this state, but they wasn’t my drops and when I harvested ‘em, it wasn’t none of my harvest. But we gonna do it now, and don’t you make no mistake about that.”

* What bothers Candy? Why? How does the writer show his reaction?

**6 – Candy talking to Curley’s wife (page 110 to 115)**

“Candy said accusingly, ‘You gotta husban’, you got no call foolin’ around with other guys causin’ trouble.’”

* How does Candy see Curley’s Wife? What does he think she’s like? What has life taught him?

“You aint wanted here. We told you you aint. An’ I tell ya, you got floozy ideas about what us guys amounts to. You aint got sense enough in that chicken head to even see that we aint stiffs.

* How does Candy see Curley’s Wife? What does he think she’s like?

“S’pose you get us canned. S’pose you do. You think we’ll hit the highway an’ look for another lousy two-bit job like this? You don’t know that we got our own ranch to go to, an’ our own house. We aint got to stay here. We gotta house and chickens an’ fruit trees an’ a place a hundred times prettier than this. An’ we got friends, that’s what we got. Maybe there was a time when we was scared of getting’ canned, but we aint no more. We got our own lan’, and it’s ours, an’ we can go to it.”

* How does he feel towards Curley’s wife? How does the sentencing and words show his feelings towards her? (Look at length and what he says/how he says it.) How does he bring the dream in? What is he trying to say?

“Candy said, ‘That bitch didn’t ought to have said that to you”

* Why does he refer to her like this? How does he see her?

**7 – George and Candy discover Curley’s Wife’s body (page 130 to 133)**

“What we gonna do now, George? What we gonna do now?”

* how does this show his thoughts? What does it show he’s bothered about?

“Now Candy spoke his greatest fear, ‘You an’ me can get that little place can’t we, George? You an’ me can go there an’ live nice, can’t we George? Can’t we?”

* Look at the repetition of words, what does it show? What is Candy thinking? How is it affecting him?

“Old Candy watched him go. He looked helplessly back at Curley’s wife and gradually his sorrow and his anger grew into words. ‘You God damn tramp,’ he said viciously”

“’You done it, didn’t you? I s’pose you’re glad. Everybody knowed you’d mess things up. You wasn’t no good, You aint no good now, you lousy tart.’ He snivelled and his voice shook. ‘I could have hoed in the garden and washed dishes for them guys’

* Look at both these quotations and discuss how he feels? What has he lost? What will become of him now? Who does he blame? Why? Which words are effective.

“An’ he repeated the old words, ‘If there was a baseball game or a cicus we’d just say ‘ta hell with work’ and went to her. An there’d have been a pig and chickens… an in the winter… the little stove… an’ the rain comin.’ His eyes blinded with tears and he turned and went weakly out of the barn.”

* How does this show his sadness? Why does he repeat the words that George and Lennie told him about their dream? Why does Steinbeck use ‘…’ (called ellipsis)?

“Old Candy lay down in the hay and covered his eyes with his arm”

* Why does he do this? What is the writer trying to show?

**Conclusion – what does Candy’s character add to the story? What does he show us about life, about dreams, about friendships? How do we feel towards him at the end? Discuss what Steinbeck’s message was with this character and explain whether you liked him or not and why.**

**Final Checklist:**

* **Make sure you discuss each of the 7 events. Do a minimum of 2 quotations for each, but some should be quite a bit more (more important ones).**
* **Make sure you explain WHY words have been used**
* **Make sure, when explaining, you refer to the themes (American Dream, friendship, loneliness, hard life) when appropriate**
* **Make sure you LINK how Candy speaks to Curley’s Wife in pages 110 to 115 and 130 to 133. How do his feelings change? How does it affect him? How does his future change?**
* **Make sure you have explained each section in DETAIL. Read through your essay at the end.**

**Useful sentence starters:**

The writer is trying to show……..

The most important word in this quotation is………

Here the message is that……

This introduces the theme/idea of…….

This makes him seem……

The word ‘……’ should make the reader think of……

This makes us feel…….

This is effective because…….