

Of Mice and Men**Notes****California****Places**

- Weed –
- Soledad –
- Salinas –
- ranch –
- bunkhouse –
- barn –
- stream –

People

- **George** – A quick-witted man who is Lennie's guardian and best friend.
- **Lennie** – A mentally disabled, but physically strong man who travels with George and is his constant companion.
- **Candy** – An aging ranch handyman, Candy lost his hand in an accident and worries about his future on the ranch.
- **Curly** – The boss' son, a young, confrontational character, once a semi-professional boxer.
- **Slim** – A "jerkline skinner," the main driver of a mule team and the "prince of the ranch". Slim is greatly respected by many of the characters.
- **Carlson** – A "thick bodied" ranch hand, he kills Candy's aging dog.
- **Curly's wife** – A young, pretty woman, who is mistrusted by her husband. The other characters refer to her only as "Curley's wife".
- **Crooks** – Crooks, the black stable-hand, gets his name from his crooked back. Proud, bitter, and funny, he is isolated from the other men because of the color of his skin.
- **Witt** – A ranch hand and blacksmith. He is a "nice fella and as clean guy as you want to meet."

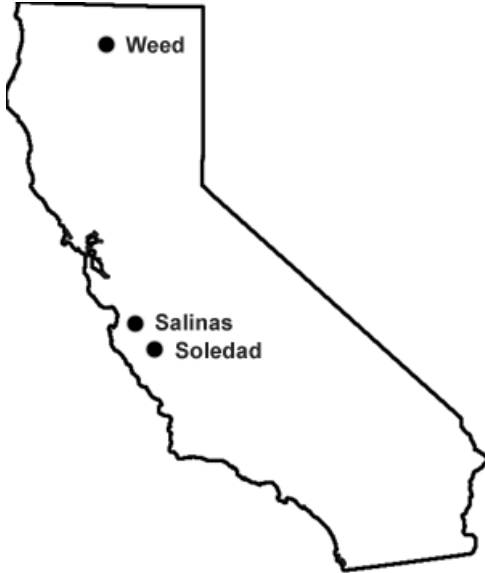
John Steinbeck

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Things/Symbols

- gun –
- dogs –
- rabbits –
- dream –

California



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Places

- **Weed** – the city George and Lennie had previously worked as ranch hands.
- **Soledad** – the California city in which the novel is set. One of the main themes of the novel is loneliness. Soledad is Spanish for solitude or loneliness.
- **Salinas** – a large city near the ranch. Steinbeck's hometown.
- **ranch** – where the majority of the novel take place.
- **bunkhouse** – where the ranch hands slept, where the fight between Lennie and Curly takes place.
- **barn** – where Lennie killed the puppy and Curly's wife.
- **stream** – where George and Lennie slept in the beginning and where Lenny dies in the end.

John Steinbeck

- Born in 1902
- Graduated from Salinas High School in 1919
- Worked as a ranch hand during summers
- Went to Stanford and majored in English
- Wrote his first book in 1929
- Published in *Of Mice and Men* 1937
- Received Nobel Prize in 1962
- Died in New York City in 1968

Things/Symbols

- **gun** – the gun was used to kill Candy's dog and later to kill Lenny
- **dogs** – man's best friend, they signify companionship for the workers
- **rabbits** – signified comfort for Lenny
- **dream** – the dream is what kept George and Lenny going from day to day; the hope of something better; something to give them comfort