



QAR: Question Answer Response Strategy for *Of Mice and Men* – Text and Question Samples

Right There: (pg. 100)

Lennie said softly, “I di’n’t forget, you bet, God damn. Hide in the brush an’ wait for George.” He pulled his hat down low over his eyes. “George gonna wish he was alone an’ not have me botherin’ him.” He turned his head and looked at the bright mountain tops. “I can go right off there an’ find a cave,” he said. And he continued sadly, “—an’ never have no ketchup—but I won’t care. If George don’t want me . . . I’ll go away. I’ll go away.”

Questions: Where is Lennie now? (He is hiding in the brush.) Where will he go if George does not want to be with him anymore? (He will go and hide in a cave in the mountains.)

Rationale: The answers to these questions are found directly in this passage of text.

Think and Search: (pg. 101)

And when she spoke, it was in Lennie’s voice. “I tol’ you an’ tol’ you,” she said, “I tol’ you, ‘Min’ George because he’s such a nice fella an’ good to you.’ But you don’t never take no care. You do bad things.”

Lennie answered her, “I tried, Aunt Clara, ma’am. I tried and tried. I couldn’ help it.”

“You never give a thought to Geroge,” she went on in Lennie’s voice. “He’s been doin’ nice things for you all a time. When he got a piece a pie you always got half or more’n half. An’ if they was any ketchup, why he’d give it all to you.”

Question: What are Lennie’s primary emotions? (He is feeling guilty and shameful.)

Rationale: The text does not explicitly say Lennie’s emotions but the reader can infer from the clues in the text what he is feeling.

On your Own: (pg. 105-6)

“Go on,” said Lennie. “How’s it gonna be. We gonna get a little place.”
“We’ll have a cow,” said George. “An’ we’ll have maybe a pig an’ chickens . . . an’ down the flat we’ll have a . . . little piece alfalfa—”
“For the rabbits,” Lennie shouted.

“For the rabbits,” George repeated.

“And I get to tend the rabbits.”

“An’ you get to tend the rabbits.”

Lennie giggle with happiness. “An’ live on the fatta tha lan’.”

“Yes.”

Lennie turned his head.

“No, Lennie. Look down there acrost the river, like you can almost see the place.”

Lennie obeyed him. George looked down at the gun.

There were crashing footsteps in the brush now. George turned and looked toward them.

“Go on, George. When we gonna do it?”

“Gonna do it soon.”

“Me an’ you.”

“You . . . an’ me. Ever’body gonna be nice to you. Ain’t gonna be no more troubles. Nobody gonna hurt nobody nor steal from ’em.”

Lennie said, “I thought you was mad at me, George.”

“No,” said George. “No, Lennie. I ain’t mad. I never been mad, an’ I ain’t now. That’s a thing I want ya to know.”

Questions: Is it good to hide the truth from people sometimes? Why or why not?

Rationale: The answer to this question is the student’s own reaction, but they must use the text to start thinking about it.

Author and You: (pg. 107)

Slim twitched George’s elbow. “Come on, George. Me an’ you’ll go in an’ get a drink.”

George let himself be helped to his feet. “Yeah, a drink.”

Slim said, “You hadda, George. I swear you hadda. Come on with me.”

He led George into the entrance of the trail and up toward the highway.

Curley and Carlson looked after them. And Carlson said, “Now what the hell ya suppose is eatin’ them two guys?”

Questions: What is the true meaning of friendship? (Does George believe he did the right thing by killing Lennie himself? Why or why not? Does Carlson, Slim, or George have the attitude closest to Steinbeck’s? Why?)

Rationale: The answers to these questions are not in the text. The student must consider his/her own opinion and knowledge, clues from the author, and the combination of all the evidences together.