

Name: _____

Of Mice & Men – The Film

The 1992 film adaptation of John Steinbeck's controversial novel "Of Mice And Men," is often stated as being true to the original 1937 novel, which rarely happens.

The New York Times said that the film "remains faithful in almost every way to the stark Steinbeck tale. Yet this "Of Mice and Men," starring Mr. Sinise as George and John Malkovich as Lennie, emphasizes something in the original work that never before seemed of foremost importance: "Of Mice and Men" is a mournful, distantly heard lament for the loss of American innocence." (October 2, 1992)

But, like in many (if not all) film adaptations from the original novel, things are represented differently, or are changed and manipulated. After watching (or while watching the movie) answer the following questions.

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- 1) Do you think this was good casting, in terms of George? What is different about the looks and behavior of the actor from what you imagined?

- 2) Does the actor portray Lennie differently from what you imagined while reading? Does the actor bring anything new to the character that emphasizes a characteristic?

- 3) Since the filmmaker cannot use language to create metaphors, how does he create the comparison of Lennie and a dog when Lennie drinks from water?

- 4) How does the film portray the boss differently from the book?

ADDED SCENE!!!

- 5) What does the scene with Curley's wife and George add to the story? How does it change the characterization of Curley's wife?

- 6) How does the director make a connection between George and Candy when Carlson is going out to shoot the dog? And what does the filmmaker achieve by making this connection?

- 7) What is added by the scene where George cleans the blood off Lennie's face? What does this scene communicate about George?

- 8) Seeing Curley react to his wife's death is different from reading about it. What is strange about the way Curley reacts?



Often, the way that a novel/story is written is difficult to transfer to a film. Create two well-written paragraphs on 1) how the film transferred well to the film, and 2) how it did not succeed.

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