



***Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck • Sketching a Portrait--Characterization**

Steinbeck introduces his two main characters in this chapter, creating a first impression of George's and Lennie's looks, personalities, beliefs, and dreams. Sometimes authors use *direct characterization* to describe characters—that is, they will directly tell readers important information about a character. For example, an author might write: "Harry was an extremely generous person." However, in this novel Steinbeck prefers to use *indirect characterization*. In other words, we learn about characters by interpreting clues that Steinbeck gives.

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| <p>Steinbeck tells us about his characters in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. He describes their appearances.</li> <li>B. He shows their actions.</li> <li>C. He quotes their explanations of their own actions.</li> <li>D. He quotes their expressions of how they believe and feel.</li> <li>E. He gives clues from what others say to or about a character.</li> </ul> |
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Directions: For each selection from the novel below, use the list in the box above to identify the method Steinbeck uses to give information about the character(s). Then tell what you learn about the character(s) from the selection. An example has been done for you.

Example: They [George and Lennie] had walked in single file down the path, and even in the open one stayed behind the other.

Method: B What you learn *George is the leader; Lennie is the follower.*

Selection 1: [Lennie] drank with long gulps, snorting into the water like a horse.

Method: \_\_\_\_\_ What you learn \_\_\_\_\_

Selection 2: The first man was small and quick, dark of face, with restless eyes and sharp, strong features.

Method: \_\_\_\_\_ What you learn \_\_\_\_\_

Selection 3: "Lennie," he said hopelessly. "You'd drink out of a gutter if you was thirsty."

Method: \_\_\_\_\_ What you learn \_\_\_\_\_

Selection 4: Lennie...imitated George exactly. He pushed himself back, drew up his knees, embraced them, looked over to George to see whether he had it just right.

Method: \_\_\_\_\_ What you learn \_\_\_\_\_

Selection 5: "I forgot," Lennie said softly. "I tried not to forget. Honest to God I did, George."

Method: \_\_\_\_\_ What you learn \_\_\_\_\_

Selection 6: His anger left him suddenly. He looked across the fire at Lennie's anguished face, and then he looked ashamedly at the flames.

Method: \_\_\_\_\_ What you learn \_\_\_\_\_

Selection 7: Behind him walked his opposite, a huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes, with wide sloping shoulders...

Method: \_\_\_\_\_ What you learn \_\_\_\_\_