Of Mice and Men
Quote Analysis

Directions: As you come across the following quotes in “Of Mice and Men” take note of the page number and analyze the significance of each quote. Ask yourself: “Does this quote reveal anything about a character’s personality or motivation? Is there a deeper meaning or theme being expressed?” Look for characterization, themes and parallelism in the quotes provided.

Quotations:
Chapter 1

2. "God, you're a lot of trouble," said George. "I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn't have you on my tail. I could live so easy and maybe have a girl."

3. "They was so little," he said, apologetically. "I'd pet 'em, and pretty soon they bit my fingers and I pinched their heads a little and then they was dead--because they was so little."

4. "Well, I could. I could go off in the hills there. Some place I'd find a cave."

5. "No--look! I was jus' foolin', Lennie. 'Cause I want you to stay with me."

6. "With us it ain't like that. We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us. We don't have to sit in no bar room blowin' our jack jus' because we got no place else to go."
Chapter 2
7. "Well, I never seen one guy take so much trouble for another guy. I just like to know what your interest is."

8. He said ominously, "Well, he better watch out for Lennie."

9. Lennie cried out suddenly--"I don' like this place, George. This ain't no good place. I wanna get outa here."

Chapter 3
10. "He's a nice fella," said Slim. "Guy don't need no sense to be a nice fella."

11. "Look, Candy. This ol' dog jus' suffers hisself all the time. If you was to take him out and shoot him right in the back of the head--" he leaned over and pointed, "--right there, why he'd never know what hit him."

12. "She's gonna make a mess. They's gonna be a bad mess about her. She's a jail bait all set on the trigger."

13. They looked at one another, amazed. This thing they had never really believed in was coming true.
14. "I ought to of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't ought to of let no stranger shoot my dog."

Chapter 4
15. "Maybe you can see now. You got George. You know he's goin' to come back. S'pose you didn't have nobody. S'pose you couldn't go into the bunk house and play rummy 'cause you was black. How'd you like that? . . . A guy needs somebody--to be near him." He whined, "A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody. Don't make no difference who the guy is, long as he's with you. I tell ya," he cried, "I tell ya a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick."

16. Nobody never gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land.

17. "Sure they all want it. Everybody wants a little bit of land, not much. Jus' som'thin' that was his."

18. "We ain't got nothing to say to you at all. We know what we got, and we don't care whether you know it or not."

19. "Maybe you guys better go," he said. "I ain't sure I want you in here no more. A colored man got to have some rights even if he don't like 'em."

20. "You guys comin' in an' settin' made me forget. What she says is true."
Chapter 5

22. "I coulda made somethin' of myself." She said darkly, "Maybe I will yet."

23. For a moment he seemed bewildered. And then he whispered in fright, "I done a bad thing. I done another bad thing."

24. "What we gonna do now, George? What we gonna do now?"

25. "I guess we gotta get 'im an' lock 'im up. We can't let 'im get away. Why, the poor bastard'd starve."

26. "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?"

27. "--I think I knowed from the very first. I think I knowed we'd never do her. He usta like to hear about it so much I got tot thinking maybe we would."

Chapter 6