Q: What could the ‘tin-shaded electric light’ in the bunkhouse be symbolic of?
A: The temporary, man-made nature of the American Dream.

Q: What does Slim find unusual about George and Lennie’s relationship?
A: The fact that they travel around together and the difference in their intelligence.

Q: Why does Slim refer to Lennie as a ‘cuckoo’?
A: Slim is implying that he is crazy or slightly insane.

Q: Where were George and Lennie both born?
A: Auburn.

Q: What religious imagery do we see in the conversation between Slim and George?
A: Describing Slim’s eyes as ‘godlike’ and George’s words as having a ‘tone of confession’.

Q: Why did George treat Lennie cruelly in front of his friends in the past?
A: To make himself feel and look powerful and ‘smart’.

Q: In spite of having Lennie by his side, what does he say to show his loneliness?
A: ‘I ain’t got no people’.

Q: What do ‘squawk’ and ‘rabbits in’ imply about the lady in Weed?

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‘Chapter 3’ question loop
A: That she made a loud fuss over the incident when Lennie grabbed her dress, making up nonsense rumours.

Q: How does the flashback to Weed help the novel's structure?

A: It offers a sense of foreboding and potential danger in Lennie’s unpredictable actions.

Q: What colour is Lennie’s new pup?

A: Brown and white.

Q: How could the game of horseshoes Candy mentioned be symbolic?

A: It shows that life and fortune in 1930s America was based on chance and luck.

Q: What could the fact that Carlson is ‘thick-bodied’ show about him?

A: That he is strong but also potentially greedy.

Q: What device does Carlson use when saying, ‘Can’t eat, can’t see, can’t even walk without hurtin’ and to what effect?

A: A triple negative to be more persuasive and convincing.

Q: What are the two significances of Candy’s dog’s death?

A: It foreshadows later events and represents the lack of appreciation of people’s sentiments and feelings at the time.

Q: Why has Steinbeck chosen euchre for the men to play?

A: Being a complicated trick-taking game, it shows the men were more complex than their simple appearance.

Q: What word does Whit use to describe Curley’s wife as a loose woman?
A: A ‘looloo’.

Q: Where do the men go on Saturday nights?

A: To ‘Susy’s place’; a brothel.

Q: What does George warn Lennie about when it comes to Curley?

A: To stay out of any fighting.

Q: What function does the talk of George and Lennie’s dream have in this chapter?

A: To offer some renewed hope to Candy after his loss.

Q: In this chapter, what is the main focus of the dream?

A: George and Lennie obtaining self-sufficiency.

Q: What is symbolic about George looking at the wall above Lennie’s head when describing the dream?

A: To foreshadow future entrapment and the impossibility of the dream.

Q: How much does George estimate their dream home would cost?

A: $600

Q: As well as offering $350, what else does Candy offer to do on the ranch?

A: Cook, tend the chickens, wash dishes and hoe the garden.

Q: Which line by Candy most foreshadows Lennie’s death?
Q: ‘I ought to have shot that dog myself, George’.

A: What does Carlson mean in saying that Curley is “yella as a frog belly”?

A: That he is a coward.

Q: Why is Curley described as a terrier when he pounces on Lennie?

A: It implies he is small, active and fearless.

Q: What is significant about Lennie’s ‘huge paws’ and his ‘bleating with terror’?

A: It is paradoxical in comparing him to both a dangerous bear and an innocent lamb.

Q: What animal imagery and simile is used to describe Curley when Lennie fights back?

A: ‘Flopping like a fish on a line’.

Q: How does Slim’s threat to Curley make him stay quiet about the fight?

A: He threatens to tell everyone that Curley was beaten in a fight, therefore ruining his reputation.