Q: How does Steinbeck use light imagery at the start of this section?

A: The ‘bright lines’ and ‘sliced’ sunlight create a feeling of foreboding and imprisonment.

Q: Why does Steinbeck emphasise the peaceful and natural sounds inside the barn?

A: To contrast with the lively noises outside and to give a sense of isolation and separation.

Q: What is Lennie’s main worry about killing the puppy?

A: That George will not let him tend the rabbits.

Q: Why does Steinbeck emphasise Curley’s wife’s extravagant appearance once again?

A: To highlight the fact that she is out of place and does not belong.

Q: What does Curley’s wife admit to Lennie that the reader has only assumed until now?

A: That she gets lonely only having Curley to talk to.

Q: When talking about her dreams and regrets with Lennie, how does Curley’s wife come across to readers?

A: As self-absorbed and manipulative.

Q: What does Curley’s wife claim she could have done with her life?

A: Become famous, starred in the movies and lived a glamorous life.

Q: Why do both Lennie and Curley’s wife seem to be speaking at cross-purposes?

A: To contrast with the lively noises outside and to give a sense of isolation and separation.
**A:** They are both wrapped up in their own dilemmas.

**Q:** In moving ever closer to Lennie and letting him stroke her hair, what do you think Curley's wife is trying to do?

**A:** After the fight, perhaps she sees Lennie as Curley's rival, and so thinks it is fun to flirt with him.

**Q:** What is the effect of Curley's wife mentioning velvet?

**A:** It reminds the reader of the Weed incident and adds concern and fear about what will happen next.

**Q:** What is the effect of the words, 'struggled violently', 'battered' and 'writhed'?

**A:** It adds drama to the struggle and shows the extent of Lennie's strength and Curley's wife's panic.

**Q:** Why are we told Curley's wife's body 'flopped like a fish'?

**A:** It reminds the reader of Curley when he also feel victim to Lennie's power.

**Q:** Why is the image of a bear used in the quotation 'he pawed up the hay'?

**A:** Like a bear, Lennie is dangerous and wild, even if he seems soft on the surface.

**Q:** Why are the sun streaks lying high on the wall just after the death?

**A:** The light could represent Curley's wife's soul rising up out of the barn.

**Q:** Why might Steinbeck be emphasising the quiet and peace in the barn at this point?

**A:** To make time stand still and to emphasise the fact that there is no going back for Lennie now.

**Q:** How is Curley's wife described in death?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: Pretty, simple and young, having escaped the hardships of life on the ranch.</td>
<td>A: 'As hard and tight as wood'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: What simile is used to describe George’s face when he sees Curley’s wife?</td>
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<tr>
<td>A: He is unsurprised and feels he knew deep down all along that something like this would happen.</td>
<td>A: That their dream will never come to fruition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: What is Candy’s greatest fear at this point?</td>
<td>Q: What is the main issue with Lennie’s dangerous and innocent character combined?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A: He literally loves things and people to death and has no understanding of the frailty of others.</td>
<td>A: That he felt that Curley’s wife was also to blame for her own death.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q: What does Candy’s reaction to the death show?</td>
<td>Q: What does George steal before playing along with the manhunt?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A: Carlson’s Luger.</td>
<td>A: To gain revenge on him for the earlier fight and, least importantly, for his wife’s death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: Why is Curley so keen to kill Lennie himself?</td>
<td>Q: Why is Curley’s wife referred to as ‘the dead girl’ on two occasions after her death?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A: To further dehumanise her and to show her to be nothing but a scapegoat.

Q: Why is it significant that Carlson’s Luger has been stolen?

A: Because this weapon was also used to shoot Candy’s dog.

Q: Why is chapter 5 often described as the climax of the novel?

A: Because many of the plot’s threads have already come together.

A: Out of sheer confused panic and fear of losing his dream.

Q: Which other characters have almost suffered the same fate as Curley’s wife?

A: Curley, Crooks and the woman in Weed.

Q: What makes this scene feel almost like a stage play?

A: The fact that it is centred around one single location; quite fitting for a would-be actress.