Section 5

**Task:** Fill in the blanks from the missing words at the end.

Steinbeck begins this section by setting the scene atmospherically, creating warmth and peacefulness. There are visual details supported by sounds and there are ................... words such as “stamped”, “rattled”, “buzz” and “humming.”

After the atmospheric opening, and the noises of the men playing with horseshoes, the scene focuses on Lennie in the barn, struggling to come to terms with the death of his puppy. He is unhappy and confused and will be particularly ................... and open to the girl’s offers of company, despite George’s previous warnings.

When Curley’s wife appears, it is clear that she is made up, with her curls in place and her ................... ostrich feather shoes on. This is a danger signal as the reader knows that Lennie is attracted to this colour. She has made herself as alluring as she knows how, to attract someone’s – perhaps anyone’s – attention.

Curley’s wife pours out her dreams of a better life though Lennie is not really paying attention. She seems star-struck and ................... , having believed the flattery and lies of men claiming they could make her a film star. She confides that she married Curley as an escape.

As Curley’s wife tells her dreams, Lennie tells of how he likes to pet things. After feeling alarmed, she decides that he is a harmless baby. She does not understand his strength and lack of ....................

Curley’s wife suggests that Lennie strokes her hair but it is hard to tell whether she is being companionable or ....................

Lennie panics and uses physical force to make her stop calling out. When he kills her, he knows that he has done another “bad thing” but has little understanding of the ................... , other than making George cross and not being allowed to have the rabbits. He is incapable of realising that this is far more serious than killing the puppy and thinks that if he hides the puppy’s body, he will not be in quite so much trouble.

As Lennie leaves, Steinbeck describes how “the sun-streaks were high on the wall by now.” This emphasises the contrast with the violence of the killing that has just taken place. In death, the girl looks ...................
Candy enters and discovers the body and Steinbeck accompanies this moment with loud noises from the horses, such as “stamped”, “........................” and “clashed.” He goes to fetch George.

Candy re-appears, bringing George who confesses that what has happened is what he always feared: it shows what happens when George is not there to restrain Lennie. He worries what will happen to Lennie and Candy warns him of how brutal .................... will be.

Candy and George re-appear and George has to make Candy agree to the strategy of letting George return with the other men to find the body so that they will not suspect that he was part of it. Candy, alone, bitterly insults and blames the dead girl for the loss of his ....................

The men enter and Slim examines the body, confirming that Curley’s wife is dead. Slim’s authority is a quiet firmness and is .................... by the men.

Curley “came suddenly to life” and responds aggressively, now seeing a chance to get .................... on Lennie. He wants to shoot Lennie in the stomach, a slow rather than painless, death.

Carlson becomes excited at the idea of a man-hunt and he seems as keen to use his gun on Lennie as he was on Candy’s dog but his .................... has gone missing.

George sends the men the wrong way and Slim talks to George about Lennie’s capture. He seems to be suggesting to George that killing him would be the most .................... thing to do. The men leave to hunt Lennie whom they believe to be armed with Carlson’s gun, whilst Candy stays with the dead girl.

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