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Of Mice and Men Essay—Dreams

Everyone in existence has dreams, whether or not such dreams are possible or even whether or not the dreamer is real. I have dreams, and the characters in Of Mice and Men certainly have dreams. The most noticeable dreams of these characters are those of George, Lennie, and Curley’s wife.

George and Lennie’s (and later on Candy’s as well) dream was to have their own farm where, in Lennie’s words, “We could live offa the fatta the land” (Steinbeck 57). A whole plan for the land had been developed. This dream was vital to these two men, though for different reasons to each of them. To child-like Lennie, the most important thing was “How I get to tend the rabbits” (Steinbeck 14). George, however, seems to get more solace from the idea that they could be totally independent, not only in making their living, but also in what they do and who they associate with.

Curley’s wife has a dream that has a lot to do with her life on the ranch. “’I tell you I ain’t used to livin’ like this. I coulda made something of myself.’ She said darkly, ‘Maybe I will yet,’” (Steinbeck 88). So Curley’s wife’s dream is to leave the ranch and have a decent life. She obviously regrets her marrying Curley, as she often mentions how she doesn’t like Curley all that much. This dream is made all the more keen by the fact that she had chances to do something: she had been offered to be in shows at least twice, but had not been able to accept.

My dream is to travel. I don’t mean travel in the ordinary sense, where one goes to a destination and goes back home. This wouldn’t work in my dream, because one could say that my dream is to not have a home—or at least to not have ties to any one place. I want to be able to pick up and go whenever and wherever strikes my fancy.

None of these dreams are really impossible. They are merely improbable for various reasons. This is the first similarity that all these dreams have. With this comes the differences, because each is improbable for different reasons. While Lennie and George wouldn’t get their dream because the chances of getting the stake needed was very slim, Curley’s wife probably wouldn’t get it at this point because she does not seem the type that would take the risk of just leaving. My dream is so improbable because it is nearly impossible to live that way with a family (or even just a job), so I wouldn’t be able to fit it in to a future.

Another similarity is that each of these dreams are things that the dreamer has never really had. Lennie and George have always moved around to work the land of someone else, so it makes sense that they would want to settle down with their own place. Curley’s wife has always felt like she has been shut away without a chance to be anything, so the idea of going out, being her own person, and having nice things is all she wants. As for me, I have always been stuck in the same place doing the same things, so I just want to get out in the world to experience it. That similarity is also a difference. Each desire shows the differences background and in character of the people they belong to.

Dreams are a great part of *Of Mice and Men* and life in general. It could be said that the similarities and differences in people’s dreams are what make and break relationships, thus creating the conflicts that life is made up of.

# Works Cited

Steinbeck, John. Of Mice and Men. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1993.