

Chapter Three

Standards Focus: Recognizing Vivid Details

Directions: Read the following excerpts from Chapter Three, underlining each word that evokes some sensory stimulation (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste). Then answer the questions that follow.

Excerpt #1

They took places opposite each other at the table under the light, but George did not shuffle the cards. He rippled the edge of the deck nervously, and the little snapping noise drew the eyes of all the men in the room, so that he stopped doing it. The silence fell on the room again. A minute passed, and another minute. Candy lay still, staring at the ceiling. Slim gazed at him for a moment and then looked down at his hands; he subdued one hand with the other, and held it down. There came a little gnawing sound from under the floor and all the men looked down toward it gratefully. Only Candy continued to stare at the ceiling.

1. _____ To what senses is Steinbeck appealing in this paragraph?
 - a. smell and touch
 - b. smell and sight
 - c. touch and sound
 - d. sight and sound

2. _____ How is the information in this paragraph organized?
 - a. order of importance (most to least or least to most important)
 - b. chronological order (the order in which the events occurred)
 - c. spatial order (description of the space or surroundings)
 - d. order of sensory description (description of what you see, hear, taste, etc.)

3. _____ What mood pervades most of the paragraph?
 - a. delight
 - b. embarrassment
 - c. anxiety
 - d. loneliness

4. _____ Which of the following can you infer from the information given in the paragraph?
 - a. The men want to play cards.
 - b. The men do not know what to say or do.
 - c. Candy was not invited to play cards
 - d. Slim wants to console Candy.

5. Why do you think Steinbeck included this paragraph in the novel? _____

Excerpt #2

George's hands stopped working with the cards. His voice was growing warmer. "An' we could have a few pigs. I could build a smoke house like the one gran'pa had, an' when we kill a pig we can smoke the bacon and the hams, and make sausage an' all like that. An' when the salmon run up river we could catch a hundred of 'em an' salt 'em down or smoke 'em. We could have them for breakfast. They ain't nothing so nice as smoked salmon. When the fruit come in we could can it—and tomatoes, they're easy to can. Ever' Sunday we'd kill a chicken or a rabbit. Maybe we'd have a cow or a goat, and the cream is so God damn thick you got to cut it with a knife and take it out with a spoon."

Name _____

Period _____

Lennie watched him with wide eyes, and old Candy watched him too. Lennie said softly, "We could live offa the fatta the lan'."

6. _____ What senses are used to define the setting in this excerpt?
- a. smell and touch
 - b. sight and sound
 - c. taste and sound
 - d. sight and taste
7. _____ How would you describe the mood of the passage?
- a. sullen
 - b. optimistic
 - c. festive
 - d. tense
8. How does this paragraph reflect the time period in which it was written? In other words, what things are mentioned that may not be found or used in our society today? Explain. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Excerpt #3

Then Curley's rage exploded. "Come on, ya big bastard. Get up on your feet. No big son-of-a-bitch is gonna laugh at me. I'll show ya who's yella."

Lennie looked helplessly at George, and then he got up and tried to retreat. Curley was balanced and poised. He dashed at Lennie with his left, and then smashed down his nose with a right. Lennie gave a cry of terror. Blood welled from his nose. "George," he cried. "Make 'um let me alone, George." He backed until he was against the wall, and Curley followed, slugging him in the face. Lennie's hands remained at his sides; he was too frightened to defend himself.

George was on his feet yelling. "Get him, Lennie. Don't let him do it."

Lennie covered his face with his huge paws and bleated with terror. He cried, "Make 'um stop, George." Then Curley attacked his stomach and cut off his wind.

9. _____ To what senses is Steinbeck appealing in this excerpt?
- a. smell and touch
 - b. smell and sight
 - c. touch and sound
 - d. sight and sound
10. _____ What mood pervades most of the paragraph?
- a. anxiety
 - b. frustration
 - c. tension
 - d. humiliation
11. Steinbeck uses mostly short, choppy sentences in these few paragraphs in order to enhance the effect of the scene. Explain how sentence length helps to contribute to the mood of the scene. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____