

# Year 9 – Of Mice and Men – Learn Sheet

## Context

### The Great Depression

- took place following the Wall Street Crash in October 1929
- affected the world's economy.
- Wall Street is a street in New York City
- lasted for ten years worldwide,
- The depression got increasingly worse between 1929 and 1932.
- At the peak of the Great Depression, it is thought that between 13 million and 15 million people in the USA were unemployed.
- Many people across America suffered from poverty, hunger and disease as a result of the depression.



### African Americans in the 1930s

- Although all Americans were affected by the Great Depression, African Americans were hit the hardest by Great Depression.
- by the end of 1932, 50% of black Americans were unemployed.
- In some cities in the northern states, white people called for black people to be fired from their jobs due to unemployment in the white communities.
- African-Americans received less aid than their white counterparts



**Discrimination** – Treating different groups of people unfairly because of race, religion, gender, or age



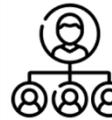
**Segregation** – The enforced separation of different racial groups in a country or community.



**Prejudice** – Having opinions about people or things without having actual experience or knowledge to base these opinions on.



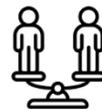
**Aspiration** – Having hope or ambition of achieving something.



**Hierarchy** – A system where people are ranked according to their status, for example their race, religion or gender.



**Futility** – pointlessness or uselessness



**Equality** – Where people have the same opportunities, regardless of background, gender or race.



**Optimistic** – Being hopeful and confident about the future.



**Disempowerment** – Making a person, or group of people, less powerful or confident.



**Vulnerable** – Being more likely to be attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.



**George**- A small, wiry, quick-witted man who travels with, and cares for, Lennie.  
*“No, Lennie. I ain't mad. I never been mad, an' I ain't now. That's a thing I want ya to know.”*



**Lennie** - A large, lumbering, childlike migrant worker.  
*“[...] Lennie broke in. “But not us! An’ why? Because...because I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you, and that's why.”*



**Candy** - An aging ranch handyman (Slim)  
*“Carl's right, Candy. That dog ain't no good to himself. I wisht somebody'd shoot me if I got old an' a cripple.”*



**Curley's Wife** - The only female character in the story  
*“Why can't I talk to you? I never get to talk to nobody. I get awful lonely.”*



**Crooks** - Crooks, the black stable-hand,  
*“I can't play because I'm black. They say I stink.”*



**Curley** - The boss's son,  
*“Curley's pretty handy”*