

"The silence came into the room." Monday, 30 March 2020

LO: to explore the way Steinbeck creates dramatic tension in chapter 3.

Do Now:

1. Nepotism. In other words...
2. Solitude. In other words...
3. Migrant worker. In other words...
4. Hierarchy. In other words...
5. What event in 1929 was responsible for the Great Depression?

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Teaching and Knowledge: Companionship

1. In this novel, **companionship** and **friendships** are a rarity. So far, the boss, Curley and Slim have outwardly questioned George and Lennie's relationship because it's seen as abnormal for a man to care about the well-being of another man. Remember, this is during the time of the **Great depression** where it was a dog-eat-dog world, where a man had to take care of himself, and that was all.
2. Because of this unique contextual setting, even Candy's relationship with his dog is frowned upon. In chapter 3 we see Carlson, a ranch hand, bully his way into killing Candy's dog with a pistol in the back of the head. Carlson takes away Candy's only **companion**. Why? Because he doesn't understand the **value of this relationship**. Why? Possibly because the society they all live in has destroyed the importance of long-term friendships and relationships.
3. America's Great Depression created 'mean' people whose primary concern was themselves (or their family, if they had one). **Marginalised** men and women were affected most because they were often **discriminated** the most. The playing field was no longer equal and **prejudice** and **discrimination** simply increased making this society a very difficult one to live in.

Vocabulary: **Secure vs Vulnerable**

Think about how Steinbeck creates tension in this scene/extract...

Which characters are secure in this scene?

Which characters are vulnerable?

1. Slim said **loudly**, "One of my lead mules got a bad hoof. Got to get some tar on it." His voice trailed off. It was **silent** outside. Carlson's footsteps died away. The **silence** came into the room. And the **silence** lasted.

George chuckled, "I bet Lennie's right out there in the barn with his pup. He won't want to come in here no more now he's got a pup."

Slim said, "Candy, you can have any one of them pups you want."

2. Candy did not answer. The **silence** fell on the room again. It **came out** of the night and **invaded** the room. George said, "Anybody like to play a little euchre?"

"I'll play out a few with you," said Whit.

3. 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. 4. **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.

...

**Now you should bring your understanding and learning into an answer. The challenge here is to ensure you apply the sentence starters and vocabulary. Sentences and key words in purple are to stretch your understanding. Good luck**

How does Steinbeck create dramatic tension in this scene?

**Steinbeck creates dramatic tension in this scene through his use of sounds.**

+For example... *"The silence came into the room. And the silence lasted."*

+More specifically...

+repetition +personification

Perhaps Steinbeck intended to reveal to his readers ...

+vulnerable +marginalised +companionship +The Great Depression

**Challenge:** Now, using a new quotation, repeat the process, showing your understanding of the rest of the extract.

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**Do Now:**

1. Nepotism. In other words **the idea of favouring friends or family above others.**
2. Solitude. In other words **loneliness, alone.**
3. Migrant worker. In other words **a worker who has to continuously travel for work.**
4. Hierarchy. In other words **a system which ranks people in order of power, status, wealth, social class.**
5. What event in 1929 was responsible for the Great Depression? **The Wall Street Crash of 1929.**

**Vocabulary:** **Secure vs Vulnerable**