

In the novel of mice and men, Lennie is significant in many ways. It's through Lennie that Steinbeck

helps to portray the feelings of other characters and many of the themes, such as loneliness, violence and dreams.

Steinbeck uses Lennie to express the theme of dreams, when he and George are talking about their dream for the first time in chapter 1. George reads it as a bed time story to Lennie, and he always remembers it word for word. This is illustrated by 'That's it - that's it. Now tell how it is with us.' Steinbeck's use of the repetition of 'That's it', ~~that's~~ tells the reader about Lennie's eager and child like behaviour. In addition, the influence of dreams in the novel helps to highlight the 'American dream'. The dream Lennie and George both share is their American dream and through Lennie it's made

apparent to the audience. Also the purpose of dreams is to give the reader the effect that at the time of the great depression in the 1930's men didn't have much to live on. Sometimes, hopes and dreams were all they had.

Lennie is also significant to highlight the theme of loneliness through Crooks. Crooks is the only black man on the ranch and is isolated from the rest of the ~~work~~ ranch. The only way he finds out his true feelings is when he talks to Lennie. This gets shown by 'A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody'. Crooks is revealing his true feelings, ~~but Lennie's simple minded~~ only because he feels like Lennie is simple minded and if you tell him something he wouldn't tell anybody else. The author uses Lennie for the other characters to express ~~there~~^{their} feelings to the reader.

Another part in the novel when Lennie is significant is in chapter 5 when Curley's wife starts talking to him. Curley's wife reveals her true feelings and her dream to Lennie. This is displayed by 'I tell you I ain't used to livin' like this. I coulda made somethin' of myself'. The effect this has on the audience is that Curley's wife is isolated and lonely, and is desperate for attention. The author first displayed her to be a tart and should be

avoided. When really she wants someone to talk to and because of Lennie's simple mind, she feels like she can. This is further evidence of Steinbeck using Lennie to express the theme of loneliness and the character of Curley's life.

Furthermore, Lennie is significant in Chapter 3 when he gets into a fight with Curley. Lennie didn't do anything for Curley to start on Lennie, which is shown by 'Come on, ya big bastard. Get on your feet.' The use of the coarse language 'bastard' gives the audience of the violent, angry temper on the ranch. Lennie's harmless attitude spurred a confrontation. The author's use of Lennie in the novel has been able to highlight the angry and violent attitude migrant ranch workers had at the time in the 1930's. They were alone

and had nothing, and would've been quick tempered. The purpose of anger in the novel is to have a sharp, quick pace on the audience. The violence makes it more dramatic and is ~~showing~~ making the book, in this chapter, more eventful and interesting to read.

In conclusion, ~~the~~ the significance of Lennie in the novel was ~~to~~ Steinbeck's way of highlighting the themes of the novel, ~~to~~ in particular loneliness. At the

start of the novel George says to Lennie 'Guys like us, ~~are~~ that work on ranches are the loneliest guys in the world'. The use of the superlative 'loneliest' makes us the audience feel that every ranch worker in America at the time of the Great Depression felt like they were the loneliest guys in the world. It then comes as for Lennie to show how Crooks and Curley's wife are lonely in the novel, where they reveal their true feelings to Lennie.