

Steinbeck's use of Animal Imagery

- leaves so crisp that a lizard makes a skittering
- rabbits like grey sculptures
- Dragging his feet ... the way a bear drags his paws
- snorting water like a horse
- Slowly, like a terrier who doesn't want to bring a ball back to its master
- "I'd pet 'em and soon they bit my fingers and I'd pinch their heads and then they was dead"
- "Somebody'd shoot you for a coyote if you was by yourself"
- "And I get to tend the rabbits"
- A drag-footed dog grey of muzzle with pale blind old eyes
- "seems kinda funny a cuckoo like him and a smart guy like you"
- He led the dog into the darkness
- "I ought to of shot that dog myself"
- "You're as yella as a frog belly"

'Of Mice & Men' Themes Quotes

Dreams

- "We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us."
- "S'pose they was a carnival or a circus come to town, or a ball game, or any damn thing." "We'd just go to her,"
- "We could live offa the fatta the lan'."
- "I seen hundreds of men come by on the road an' on the ranches, with their bindles on their back an' that same damn thing in their heads . . . every damn one of 'em's got a little piece of land in his head."
- "I coulda made something of myself."
- "He said he was gonna put me in the pitchers."
- "I think I knowed from the very first. I think I knowed we'd never do her. He usta like to hear about it so much I got to thinking maybe we would."
- "No, Lennie. I ain't mad. I never been mad, an' I ain't now. That's a thing I want ya to know."

Loneliness

- "If you don't want me I can go off in the hills an' find a cave. I can go away any time."
- "No—look! I was jus' foolin', Lennie. 'Cause I want you to stay with me."
- "Well, I never seen one guy take so much trouble for another guy. I just like to know what your interest is."
- "A guy on a ranch don't never listen nor he don't ast no questions."
- "Ain't many guys travel around together," he mused. "I don't know why. Maybe ever'body in the whole damn world is scared of each other."
- Lennie smiled helplessly in an attempt to make friends.
- Crooks said sharply, "You got no right to come in my room. This here's my room. Nobody got any right in here but me."
- "There wasn't another colored family for miles around. And now there ain't a colored man on this ranch an' there's jus' one family in Soledad."

Prejudice

- "If he finds out what a crazy bastard you are, we won't get no job"
- "Sure. Ya see the stable buck's a n*****."
- "The boss gives him hell when he's mad. But the stable buck don't give a damn about that."
- "They let the n***** come in that night. Little skinner name of Smitty took after the n*****."
- "You go on get outta my room. I ain't wanted in the bunk house, and you ain't wanted in my room"
- "Listen, N*****," she said. "You know what I can do to you if you open your trap?"



Attitudes towards Women

- "Seems like Curley is cockier'n ever since he got married."
- "Well, I will tell ya what—Curley says he's keepin' that hand soft for his wife."
- "Yeah? Married two weeks and got the eye? Maybe that's why Curley's pants is full of ants."
- She put her hands behind her back and leaned against the door frame so that her body was thrown forward.
- "She's a jail bait all set on the trigger."
- "Ranch with a bunch of guys on it ain't no place for a girl, specially like her."
- "But Susy's place is clean and she got nice chairs."
- "You give me a good whore house every time"

Violence

- The little man jerked down the brim of his hat and scowled over at Lennie.
- Lennie hesitated, backed away, looked wildly at the brush line as though he contemplated running for his freedom.
- "I'd pet 'em, and pretty soon they bit my fingers and I pinched their heads a little and then they was dead"
- "I wasn't kicked in the head with no horse, was I, George?"
- "Well, that was a lie. An' I'm damn glad it was. If I was a relative of yours I'd shoot myself."
- His arms gradually bent at the elbows and his hands closed into fists.
- A shot sounded in the distance. The men looked quickly at the old man. Every head turned toward him.
- "Well, you keep your place then, N*****. I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain't even funny."
- Her body flopped like a fish.