

Of Mice and Men

Chapter 2 Vocabulary and Comprehension Guide

Page 18:

1) The **bunk house** was a long, rectangular building.



2) ... a solid door with a wooden **larch**: This is a typo. It should say "latch".



3) ...the other three showing their **burlap ticking**.



Burlap



4)...these shelves were loaded with little articles like soap and **talcum powder**, **razors** ...



Pg. 19

1) Near one wall there was a black **cast-iron stove**:

2) "He was **sore as hell** when you wasn't here to go out this morning." : **Extremely angry**



3) 'positively kills **lice**, roaches and other **scourges**.'



Lice: Tiny insects that infest hair.

Scourge: Infestation

4) "We don't want no **pants rabbits**." : Little bugs jumping around in your pants.

5) The old **swamper** shifted his broom ...

Swamper: Janitor, in charge of mopping and cleaning.



6) "Then how come he got **graybacks**?" : Lice

Page 20

1) "An' he give the **stable buck** hell, too." :

The person who does the hardest and most odious work on the ranch, and works in the stable- the barn where horses and cows sleep.

Page 21

1) "Nice **fella** too." : Fellow, guy.

2) "'Drink hearty boys. Christmas comes but once a year.'" : Drink a lot. Christmas only comes once a year.

3) "Little **skinner** name of Smithy **took after** the n****. **Done pretty good, too.**" :

Skinner: A person who skins animals and prepares skins.

Took after: Picked a fight with..

Done pretty good: Fought hard and fought well.

4) He paused in **relish** of the memory. : **Great enjoyment**

5) ...he wore high-heeled boots and **spurs** to prove he was not a laboring man. :



Page 22

1) "Bus driver give us a bum steer" : The bus driver took us to the wrong place.

2) The boss **squinted** his eyes:

made his eyes narrow.

3) I had to send out the grain teams
short two buckers :

Missing two people to carry the bags of
grain.

4) George **scowled** meaningfully at Lennie:
Looked angrily.



Page 23

1) He can rassel grain bags, drive a cultivator.

Load bags of grain and drive a tractor.



2) **"What are you trying to put over?"** :
What are you trying to hide (cover up)?

3) **"He can put up a four hundred pound **bale**."**



A bale of hay

Page 24

1) **"We.... we was diggin' a **cesspool**."** :

An underground container for storing sewage (i.e. poop!)

2) I seen **wise guys** before: People who try to do things they're not allowed to do.

3) **"You was gonna leave your big **flapper** shut...":** Mouth

4) **Now we got to be careful and not make no **slips**:** Mistakes

5) **You keep your big **rapper** shut after this."** : Mouth

Page 25

1) ... licking his **grizzled**, moth-eaten coat. : Worn out and streaked with grey hair.

2) **"I don't like nobody to get **nosey**."** : Too curious about other people's affairs.

3) **"A guy on a ranch don't never listen nor he don't ast no questions."** :

A guy on a ranch never listens nor asks any questions.

4) **"Damn right he don't," said George, slightly **mollified**:** appeased, softened, calmed.