



George and Lennie

The First Dialogue

Here is the opening bit of dialogue from 'Of Mice and Men', taken out of the novel and presented as a script.

The actions described in the narrative are included as stage directions.



Try reading it aloud in pairs.

Talk about and make notes on:



- What kind of men George and Lennie seem
George is concerned with reality, Lennie is concerned with the moment
- How they differ from each other George is in charge
- How each one seems to be thinking and feeling Lennie is happy
- What they feel about each other George is frustrated at Lennie's inability to remember even basic information

Now read it again

- Use your voices and gestures to convey the two different characters and their feelings. Try giving each other opposite qualities e.g. if George speaks rapidly, Lennie could speak slowly. If George speaks softly, Lennie could speak loudly and so on.

Think about:

- Pace
- Volume
- Tone of voice
- Speed of movements
- Size of gestures

What have you learned about the characters through this?

- Why has Steinbeck given his novel two such different characters?
- Find quotes to demonstrate how the two men are opposites