

A key incident which takes place in the novel is when Lennie kills Curley's wife. This incident conveys the theme of loneliness because Curley's wife is looking for somebody to talk to when she finds Lennie.

"Why can't I talk to you? I never get nobody to talk to. I get awful lonely."

This shows that Curley's wife has no one to speak to as she is the only woman on the ranch and has nobody to relate to. She is simply looking for company when she finds Lennie, but unfortunately things get accidentally out of control and Lennie kills her.

"Don't you go yellin'!" he said, and he shook her and her body flopped like a fish.\*

This is the moment when Curley's wife is killed. Sadly, her loneliness is what leads to her death.

To conclude, the theme of loneliness made me consider how tough life can be for people in several different ways. The characterisation of Crooks, the setting of the novel and the key

\* This is imagery too, and perhaps worth mentioning.