

A novel which presents a theme ~~that~~ that made me consider an aspect of human nature or human society was 'Of mice and men' by John Steinbeck. This novel presents the theme of ~~hopes and dreams~~ ^{hopes + dreams} and Steinbeck develops this theme through the characterisation (of characters), descriptions of key events and the setting. In this essay I will speak about how the writer conveys this theme effectively.

Steinbeck uses the characterisation of Curley's wife to develop the theme of 'hopes and dreams'. Curley's wife is the only woman on the ranch and finds it very lonely. We see when she says 'I could've been in the pictures' that her dream was to be in films but instead she has ended up on a ranch, married to Curley, who she says 'isn't a nice fella'. Curley's wife hopes to get her dream of being in the movies and hopes it will get her out of the ranch where she has nobody to talk to but Curley.

Very good, but go further. Does she achieve her dream?

Steinbeck also uses the description of the setting to develop the theme of hopes and dreams. The novel is set in the 1930's at the time of 'The Great Depression'. People had nothing but hope at this time, including two of the main characters, George and Lennie. George and Lennie share the dream of having their own little place and Lennie dreams about having rabbits for him to look after in their little place. At the time, black people were discriminated against but the black stable buck hopes to work on the ranch with the other men one day. He says 'If only I ain't so crippled, I could work like a son of a bitch', showing he wants to prove to these men that just because he's black and crippled he could work hard.