

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF OF MICE AND MEN

There are two men, namely George and Lennie. They come to a ranch in order to work. George is a small, dark man while Lennie, his companion, is a huge man who loves soft things. Lennie has a mild mental disability, so then he is very dependent upon George for protection and guidance. Even though George always complains that his life will be easier without Lennie around him, but, in fact, he loves him. Lennie sometimes makes mistakes and easily gets into problems. Therefore, both of them make an agreement that if either of them gets into trouble, he has to wait for the other in a pool of the Salinas River. They dream of having a farm of their own and they think nobody else should know about their plan. In the ranch, they meet some men, namely Candy, Curley (their boss' son), Slim, and Crooks; and a flirtatious woman, that is Curley's wife. George prohibits Lennie to befriend her and asks Lennie to stay away from her.

One day, Lennie has a fight with Curley and some days later, Lennie makes a big mistake because he accidentally kills Curley's wife. Lennie remembers that if either of them gets a problem, he must wait for the other in a pool of the Salinas River. There he goes. However, when George hears about the accident, he goes to the place and then he kills his friend. In the end, Lennie dies in George's hand.

SYNOPSIS OF MAGGIE: A GIRL OF THE STREETS

The Johnsons live in an area which is inhabited by the poor and the drunken. It is an area where even the moon is hell. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have three children: Maggie, Jimmie, and Tom. As time goes by, both Father and Tom die. Maggie and Jimmie are now growing mature and older, and they have to work in order to fulfill their family's daily needs.

One day, Jimmie's friend named Pete comes to the house and then he meets Maggie. They begin dating and Maggie puts all her hopes in him, for she sees in him the promise of a wealthy life, as an escape from her miserable life.

There comes a day when Maggie's mother accuses her of disgracing her family and then rejects her. Hopeless, Maggie comes to Pete and lives together without the process of marriage. Their life seems far from problems until a woman named Nellie appears and Pete falls in love with her. Since then, Pete has changed.

One day, Maggie asks for Pete's responsibilities, but he rejects her. Then, she comes back to her house but, again, her family rejects her. Desperate, sad, and having no money; Maggie becomes a prostitute. In the end, she dies.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN STEINBECK

John Steinbeck (1902-1968), born in Salinas, California, came from a family of moderate means. He worked his way through college at Stanford University but never graduated. In 1925 he went to New York, where he tried for a few years to establish himself as a free-lance writer, but he failed and returned to California. After publishing some novels and short stories, Steinbeck first became widely known with Tortilla Flat (1935), a series of humorous stories about Monterey *paisanos*. Steinbeck's novels can all be classified as social novels dealing with the economic problems of rural labor, but there is also a streak of worship of the soil in his books, which does not always agree with his matter-of-fact sociological approach. After the rough and earthy humor of Tortilla Flat, he moved on to more serious fiction, often aggressive in its social criticism, to In Dubious Battle (1936), which deals with the strikes of the migratory fruit pickers on California plantations. This was followed by Of Mice and Men (1937), the story of the imbecile giant Lennie, and a series of admirable short stories collected in the volume The Long Valley (1938). In 1939 he published what is considered his best work, The Grapes of Wrath. Among his later works should be mentioned East of Eden (1952), The Winter of Our Discontent (1961) and Travels with Charley (1962), a travelogue in which Steinbeck wrote about his impressions during a three-month tour in a truck that led him through forty American states. He died in New York City on December 20, 1968.

Source: Frenz, Horst. Nobel Lectures, Literature 1901-1967. Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company, 1969.

BIOGRAPHY OF STEPHEN CRANE

Crane was born in Newark, New Jersey, the fourteenth child of a Methodist minister. His father died in 1880 and Crane was raised by his devout mother, who died in 1890. Crane studied at Lafayette College and Syracuse University, but attained degrees from neither. After his mother's death in 1890, Crane moved to New York City, where he lived a bohemian life and worked as a free-lance writer as well as journalist. Crane used his unsparing observations of the life of the Bowery poor in short stories and his first novel, Maggie: A Girl of the Streets (1893), is a milestone in realism and the early development of literary naturalism. He published the book with money borrowed from his brother and released it under the pseudonym "Johnston Smith". The Red Badge of Courage (1895) introduced Crane's innovative writing style. It received intense international acclaim. His short story masterpiece, The Open Boat (1898), is based on his personal experience. Crane met Cora Stewart-Taylor (July 12, 1865 – Sep 4, 1910) and they married in 1897 or 1898. Taylor was also a writer and she and Crane worked together as war correspondents during the Greco-Turkish War of 1897. This experience was the basis for his novel Active Service (1899). Crane produced not only short stories but also poems. His first collection of poetry entitled The Black Rider and Other Lines (1895). After a fruitless attempt to improve his health in Greece, Crane died of tuberculosis in Badenweiler, Germany, on June 5, 1900.

Source: "Stephen Crane"

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Crane>

