Some questions on ... CROOKS

Crooks’ bunk was a long box filled with straw—what does this tell us about his life and status?

Some things are hung carefully: “a broken harness—a split collar with the horsehair stuffing out, a broken hame, and a trace chain with its leather covering split”—yet “scattered about the floor were a number of his personal possessions”—what does this tell us about his life and status?

...his eyes lay deep in his head, and because of their depth seemed to glitter with intensity. His lean face was lined with deep black wrinkles, and he had thin pain-tightened lips which were lighter than his face.” What can we deduce about Crooks’ life and personality through the description of his face?

Why do you think Crooks is so hostile to Lennie at first?

Why do you think Crooks specifies that the chickens he kept as a child were white?

Why do you think Crooks ever refers to himself as a “nigger”?

“Crooks’ face lighted with pleasure in his torture”: why do you think he enjoys “scaring Lennie”?

“I don’t know if I was asleep. If some guy was with me, he could tell me I was asleep, an’ then it would be all right?” What can we deduce about Crooks’ lifestyle and his hopes from this quote?

When Curley’s wife threatens Crooks, he reduced himself to nothing. There was no personality, no ego—nothing to arouse either like or dislike... and his voice was toneless.” What can we infer about Crooks’ life and the way he has been treated from this quick change?

Why do you think Crooks claims he was “Jus’ foolin’” and that he wouldn’t want to go to no place like that?

What can we deduce about his attitude towards hopes, dreams and opportunities?

Think of five questions about Crooks based on quotes or details from chapter 4. They should be open questions, which require inference skills to answer.

What can we infer from the fact that Crooks keeps his medicine bottles mixed in with the horses’ medicine?

Crooks owns a “tattered dictionary and a mauled copy of the California civil code” and a “pair of large gold-rimmed spectacles”. What do the items (and their condition or quality) tell us about his dreams and priorities?

What is the effect of having Crooks rubbing liniment onto his back at both the chapter’s beginning and end?