# Many characters in of mice and men (capitals missing)are shown to be lonely. Write about Loneliness in the novel.

Loneliness is one of the main themes of the novel (lla), which has been demonstrated in various parts by a variety of characters. Some of them chose to be deprived of the social congregation (rephrase this) whilst others are set aside and isolated due to their differences. (good, clear and brief introduction with focus on task)

Steinbeck presents the theme of loneliness by introducing us to the travelling workers at the beginning of the novel, who worked for a few weeks, gained some money and then left; they travelled on their own and are described as being the “loneliest guys in the world” (good use of embedded quotation). During the Wall Street crash or the depression of the late 1920s, vast majority of the population had difficulties leading their lives as many had been sacked of their jobs and had to survive on their own. They had no one else who would take care of them whilst they travelled, so this caused them to face every difficulty that arose on their own. Steinbeck’s intention for the introduction of the theme of loneliness through the migrant workers is to make the readers aware of the harshness and the difficulty many of them (migrant workers) faced. Moreover, mentioning migrant workers allows its readers to have better understanding of main characters Lennie and George who are found in a similar position yet are different to them as they have the company of each other, whilst the rest do not. (excellent intergration of AO4 – context linked to characterisation and Steinbeck’s intentions)

Though Lennie and George do have each other’s company, Lennie may be described as a lonely character. When everyone went into town and Lennie tried to seek Crooks’ company, he tells Crooks that “Ever’body went into town” but he “gotta stay” (appropriate, precisely selected quotations, well done). This prove that even though they are both extremely reliant on each other, Lennie is sometimes left behind lonely, causing him to enter Crooks room when seeking company as he is unaware of the racial segregation. One of the reasons which may have caused Lennie to be excluded of the group may be because of his stunt mental state; where he would be considered an outsider if he did go out with the rest of them. Moreover, the exclusion from that social group may be due to Lennie only spending time with animals instead of human beings; From the novel, one could draw the conclusion that Lennie does not like to socialize with many of the characters as he prefers the company of his puppies. This may be because of his mental state or just a personal habit. (good analysis of Lennie’s character)

One of the characters who is lonely by force (rephrase this) is Curley’s wife. She often tries to convince many of the men in the ranch that she gets “awful lonely” as she is the only woman present in the ranch. Though she tries very hard, all the men in the ranch refuse to be sympathetic and instead insult her and tell her that she should go away. Majority of the men see her as an object that has an owner who is in a superior position to them in the ranch, and so refuse to make friendly conversation. Others, who ironically are found in a similar situation like Candy, become excessively rude and show no respect towards her as he believes that she has a much more degrading position in the hierarchy than he does because she is a female. Steinbeck may have chosen to have a female character to present the readers the daily lives of a normal female who lived in farm lands. On the other hand, Steinbeck may have been demonstrating his own personal views on how a female should have been treated like – segregated! This may also be due to lack of human rights for woman, as they were previously believed to only be fit for the profession of housewife. (possible interpretation, though remember Steinbeck also presents her character sympathetically in death – you could use more textual support here – this would cover A02 - structure)

Loneliness was wide spread during the depression due to a variety of different reasons. One of the most important is the lack of human rights, where equality is granted to everyone and all of their differences are put aside, whether they are: gender, race, mental state or wealth.

WWW: You pick on lonliness as a key theme by referring in detail to Lenie and Curley’s wife’s situation and characterisation. I also like your integration of context and textual support.

EBI: you could consider what links these characters i.e. their need for human contact and conversation. Also their hopes and dreams.

Band 4 mark 18 – roughly B grade. Well done.