**GEORGE**

***“The first man was small and quick, dark of face, with restless eyes and sharp, strong features. Every part of him was defined: small, strong hands, slender arms, a thing and bony nose.”***

**-Looks after Lennie:** When we first meet George and Lennie we learn “*even in the open, one stayed behind the other”.* He is like a father figure to Lennie and tells him off: “*Lennie, for God sakes don’t drink so much”* and is protective of him: “*you never oughtta drink water when it ain’t running Lennie”.*  When Lennie offers to “*go away and leave (George) alone*”, George tells Lennie “*I want you to stay with me”*- even though Lennie does cause him problems, George loves Lennie. In case Lennie gets in trouble, George gives him a place to go- “*I want you to come right here and hide in the brush”.* He has Lennie’s best interests at heart when he tells him to *“keep away from Curley”* and to not “*even take a look*” at Curley’s wife. George “*spoke proudly*” after Slim complimented Lennie- like a father would. He tells Slim that Lennie “*ain’t no cuckoo*”. Candy says “*George won’t have you messin’ with Lennie*” After Lennie kills Curley’s wife, George still protects him: “*I ain’t gonna let ‘em hurt Lennie*”. He shoots Lennie because he knows that a painless death with the image of the dream in his head is far better than him being locked up or killed violently by Curley.

**-Controlling:** He doesn’t let Lennie carry his own work card: “*Think I’d let you carry your own work card?”* because he doesn’t trust him. George doesn’t want Lennie to talk when they get at the ranch: “*you ain’t gonna say a word*” because he is worried he will say something wrong that may cost them their jobs. He tells Lennie to *“keep away from Curley”* and to not “*even take a look*” at Curley’s wife When Lennie brings puppy into barn, he tells Lennie off *“You take him back or I’ll tell Slim not to let you have him”* – he has to be strict with Lennie otherwise he won’t listen.

-**Short tempered but regrets his outbursts:** When Lennie asks where they are going, George “*scowled*” at him and complains “*so you forgot that awready did ya*”. He “*exploded*” when Lennie kept asking for ketchup with his beans and then rants about how easy his life would be without Lennie. However, when he finishes this rant, “*his anger left him suddenly*” and “*looked ashamedly*” and later promises that the “*first chance I get I’ll give you a pup”.* He lives up to this promise and gets Lennie a dog from Slim. Even after telling Lennie to keep away from Curley, he says *“I’m scared I’m gonna tangle with that bastard myself”-* Curley makes him very frustrated etc. which may be because he realises the trouble that Curley may cause.

**-Dreams of a better life:** George dreams of a life without Lennie: “*I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn’t have you on my tail”, “I could go get a job an’ work an’ no trouble… I could stay in a cathouse all night… get a gallon of whisky or set in a pool room and play cards or shoot pool”, “when I think of the swell time I could have without you, I go nuts. I never get no peace”*- Lennie causes George to continuously lose jobs but Lennie is the one who prevents George from being lonely*.* George also dreams about having a better life with Lennie where they “*have a little house and a couple of acres an’ a cow and some pigs”.* He tells Slim *“If I was bright, if I was even a little bit smart, I’d have my own little place”.* When we realises they *“could swing her”* (get the place), George’s *“eyes were full of wonder”*- he had the dream so long but didn’t think it would come true.

**-Realistic about the dream:** Steinbeck suggests George doesn’t think the dream will happen because he tells it like a fairy tale to Lennie, speaking “*rhythmically as though he had said them many times before*”. George tells Lennie they can have “*red and blue and green rabbits*” which also suggests he doesn’t think the dream will be real. He only actually believes in the dream when they have enough money to buy the place: “*I bet we could swing her*”. After Lennie kills Curley’s wife, he realises the dream is over and reveals to Candy “*I think I knowed we’d never do her*”.

**-Keeps to himself:** Tells Candy “*I don’t like nobody to get nosey*” after he was listening to their conversations about the boss’ suspicions about their relationship. When Candy asks about the dream “*George was on guard immediately” and “watched him suspiciously”*. He tells Candy and Lennie: “*Don’t tell nobody about it*” (referring to the dream being realistic). “*George scowled*” after Candy said he had been working out about the dream and said *“I thought I tol’ you not to tell nobody about that”.*