

## OF MICE AND MEN

### QUOTES FOR ESSAY ON CROOKS

- 'I ain't a Southern Negro. I was born right here in California. My old man had a chicken ranch, 'bout ten acres. The white kids come to play at our place, an' sometimes I went to play with them, and some of them was pretty nice. My ol' man didn't like that. I never knew till long later why he didn't like that. But I know now.'
- 'Crooks possessed books, too; a tattered dictionary an a copy of the California Civil Code for 1905.'

#### To Lennie:

- 'You got no right to come in my room. This here' my room. Nobody got any right in here but me.'
- They play cards in there, but I can't play because I'm black. They say I stink. Well, I tell you, you all of you stink to me'
- 'S'pose you didn't have nobody..S'pose you couldn't go into the bunkhouse 'cause you was black. How'd you like that? S'pose you had to set out here and read books... A guy needs somebody – to be near him.. A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody. Don't make no difference who the guy is, long as he's with you. I tell you a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick
- 'I remember when I was a kid on my old man's chicken ranch. Had two brothers. They was always near me, always there. Used to sleep right on the same room...'
- You guys is just kiddin' yourself. You'll talk about it a hell of a lot, but you won't get no land. You'll be a swamper here till they take you out in a box...

- ‘ If you guys would want a hand to work for nothing – just his keep, why, I’d come an’ lend a hand. I ain’t so crippled I can’t work...’

**To Curley’s wife:**

- I’m gonna ast the boss not to ever let you come in the barn no more.
- Listen nigger, you know what I can do if you open your trap...I could get you strung up on a tree so quick it ain’t even funny’