

# *Of Mice and Men* Vocabulary

## Chapter 1

**Lumber** (v) – to move ponderously, as though weighed down  
**Juncture** (n) – a point of union or connection  
**Mottled** (adj) – spotted; blotched with colors  
**Recumbent** (adj) – leaning, resting  
**Heron** (n) – a long-necked wading bird with a long beak and large wings  
**Bindle** (n) – a pack of personal belongs or a blanket roll  
**Thrashin' (threshing) machine** (n) – a machine for separating grain crops into grain or straw  
**Brusquely** (adv) – shortly; abruptly; ungraciously harsh  
**Imperiously** (adv) – commanding; arrogantly; dominantly  
**Morose** (adj) – sullen; gloomy  
**Jack** (slang n) – money  
**Yammer** (v) – repeated cries

## Chapter 2

**Scourges** (n) – causes of widespread or great affliction  
**Swamper** (n) – a general assistant; a handyman; a helper  
**Graybacks** (slang n) – lice  
**Tick** (n) – a mattress consisting of its fabric case and its filling  
**Liniment** (n) – a liquid or semiliquid preparation applied to the skin as a pain reliever  
**Buck** (n) – a man; a male human being or animal  
**Buckers** (n) – those who move or load heavy objects  
**Skinner** (n) – a person who drives (or directs) a team of animals  
**Cultivator** (n) – a machine used to loosen the soil while crops are growing  
**Plaintive** (adj) – expressing sorrow, melancholy or sadness  
**Barley** (n) – a cereal grass used in malt beverages, breakfast foods and stock feeds  
**Mollify** (v) – to sooth; to appease; to assuage; to calm

**Pugnacious** (adj) – having a belligerent or aggressive nature; combative; quick to fight/quarrel  
**Handy** (adj) – clever in using the hands  
**Skeptical** (adj) – uncertain; doubtful  
**Ominous** (adj) – menacing; threatening; foreboding; an omen especially a bad one  
**Derogatory** (adj) – expressive of a low opinion; degrading; disparaging  
**Tart** (n) – a prostitute  
**Contorted** (adj) – twisted into a strange shape or expression  
**Mules** (n) – shoes or slippers without hell straps; scuffs  
**Brittle** (adj) – sharp, tense, lacking warmth  
**Bridled** (v) – to show anger or resentment; take offense  
**Archly** (adv) – forwardly; impudently  
**Apprehensive** (adj) – anxious; fearful  
**Profound** (adv) – all encompassing; complete; of deep meaning  
**Complacent** (adj) – with self-satisfaction; smug; untroubled  
**Grizzled** (adj) – streaked with gray

## Chapter 3

**Found** (n) – free food and lodging in addition to wages  
**Scuttle** (v) – to run playfully or nimbly; to scurry  
**Derision** (adj) – an expression of ridicule, contempt or hatred  
**Receptive** (adj) – open and responsive  
**Rheumatism** (n) – any of various conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles, joints or fibrous tissues  
**Euchre** (n) – a card game  
**Kewpie** (n) – a small chubby doll with a topknot of hair  
**Hoosegow** (slang, n) – jail  
**Reprehensible** (adj) – deserving of criticism or censure  
**Bemused** (adj) – lost in thought  
**Wryly** (adv) – cleverly, often with ironic or grim humor  
**Solemn** (adj) – seriously, gravely

## Chapter 4

**Aloof** (adj) – reserved, emotionally detached

**Disarming** (adj) – displaying no criticism or hostility; ingratiating

**Sullen** (adj) – gloomy, disagreeable, sulky

**Contemptuously** (adv) – despisingly; disrespectfully

**Indignation** (n) – anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy or mean

**Bindle stiff** (n) – hoboes; homeless migratory workers

**Floozy** (adj) – cheap; immoral; tawdry

**Appraise** (v) – evaluate; judge

**Crestfallen** (adj) – humiliated; ashamed

## Chapter 5

**Console** (v) – to comfort; to alleviate the grief

**Earnest** (adj) – seriously; intently

**Writhe** (v) – to turn or twist as if in pain or suffering

**Sulkily** (adv) – moodily; sullenly

**Bewildered** (adj) – confused; perplexed

## Chapter 6

**Skitter** (v) – to glide or skip lightly or quickly along a surface

**Scornfully** (adv) – contemptuously; derisively; with an angry rejection

**Belligerently** (adv) – assertively; with hostility

**Dutifully** (adv) – with a sense of duty, obligation or respect