1. The novel begins with a rich description of the physical setting. Cite three examples of descriptive language. Explain the effect on the mood by beginning the narrative with this description. What is Steinbeck trying to suggest about the area by the Salinas River?
2. Compare and contrast the two men who come into the clearing by the river. Why do you think Steinbeck introduces the men by describing their physical features, highlighting the fact that one is small and one is huge? What can the reader infer about the two men based on their descriptions?
3. As George and Lennie are waiting to go to the camp, George states, “God, you’re a lot of trouble. I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn’t have you on my tail. I could live so easy and maybe have a girl.” Explain what this statement illustrates about George’s feelings toward Lennie? What does the reader learn about George and his dreams?
4. Even though Lennie’s mentality keeps him from fully understanding the world around him, he is very sensitive to George’s feelings. Describe an incident that shows Lennie’s compassion for George.
5. Why does George tell Lennie to remember the spot where they are camping? What might this conversation foreshadow?
6. What literary term does Steinbeck use in the last sentence of the chapter?