

# Of Mice and Men, Chapter 1: Group Work

## Similes and Metaphors

Scan Chapter 1 and look for examples of similes and metaphors. When you find one, write down the page number, either **M** for METAPHOR or **S** for SIMILE, and finally the example. If you did the earlier activity on finding animal and child images used to describe Lennie, you have probably already found some similes and metaphors that you can write on the chart. Personification is a special type of metaphor; you can add "P" if appropriate.

Page #	M or S?	Example
2	S	rabbits sat as quietly as little gray, sculptured stones

## Discuss: The American Dream

The “American dream” is the idea that anyone in American society can achieve success and independence if they just try hard enough and work hard enough. This idea has been an important part of American culture since the early history of the United States. Although some scholars have suggested that this popular idea of going from “rags to riches” is more of a myth than a reality, many Americans believe in this ideal, and it has helped to define American character and culture. It has been a popular theme in American literature, and it has helped shape American attitudes on social issues such as poverty.

**Discuss these questions. Each member of the group should give their thoughts.**

1. In what way is George and Lennie’s dream an American dream?
2. In your opinion, is the American dream a reality or a myth?
3. Why do you think there is poverty in a country as rich as the United States?
4. How does the idea of the American dream influence American attitudes toward wealth and poverty?
5. Does your country have a defining national myth? If so, what is it?