



Of Mice and Men Character Tug of War

In the novella *Of Mice and Men*, many characters face a noticeable struggle between their strengths and weaknesses. For example, many characters have qualities that help them in some ways and hold them back in others.

Using the graphic organizer below, identify the strengths and weaknesses on each side of each character's "tug of war." List all of the strengths (or things that help) and weaknesses (or things that hurt) for each character that you have discovered in your reading. Remember that it is okay for a strength to also be listed as a weakness. Then, in the box to the right of each character's tug of war, explain any strengths that are also weaknesses.

Strengths/Things That Help

physical size and strength
friendship with/care for George
childlike hopefulness

Weaknesses/Things That Hurt

physical size and strength
mental disability
forgetfulness

Lennie

Strengths That Are Also Weaknesses

Lennie's physical strength and size are a noticeable contradiction for Lennie because they help him, such as with his farm work, but also hurt him, such as through his accidental killing of the mice and puppy, his crushing of Curley's hand, and the tragic death of Curley's wife.

Strengths/Things That Help

Weaknesses/Things That Hurt

George

Strengths That Are Also Weaknesses

Strengths/Things That Help

Weaknesses/Things That Hurt

Strengths That Are Also Weaknesses

Candy



Strengths/Things That Help

Weaknesses/Things That Hurt

Strengths That Are Also Weaknesses

Curley



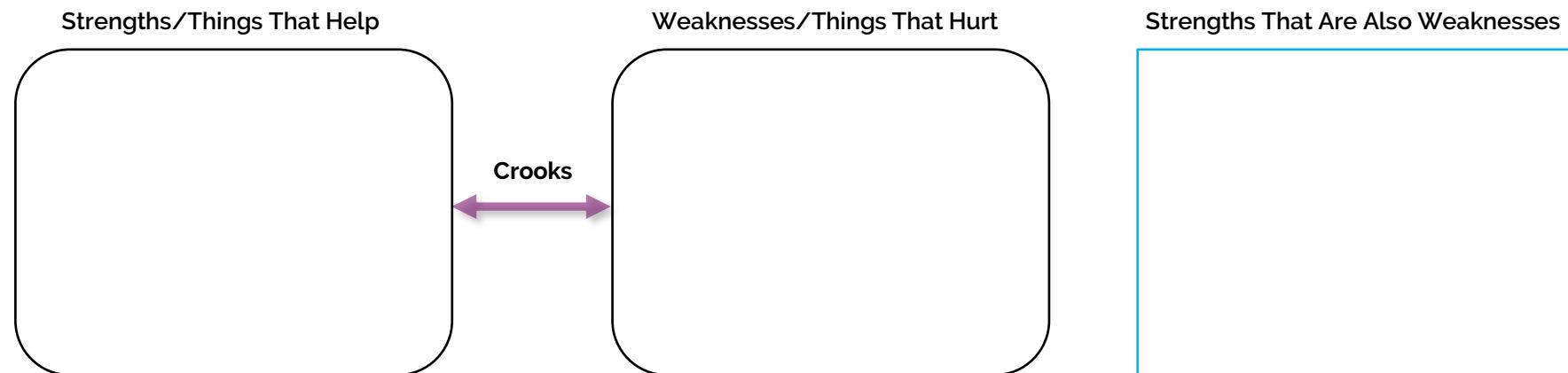
Strengths/Things That Help

Weaknesses/Things That Hurt

Strengths That Are Also Weaknesses

Curley's wife





RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

W.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.