

Characterization of Curley's Wife

SR 2018



The lack of a name...

- ★ In both book and movie
 - Movie: given more of a character but still no name
 - Book: more of a symbol than a character
- ★ Creates a perception of Curley's Wife being of little importance



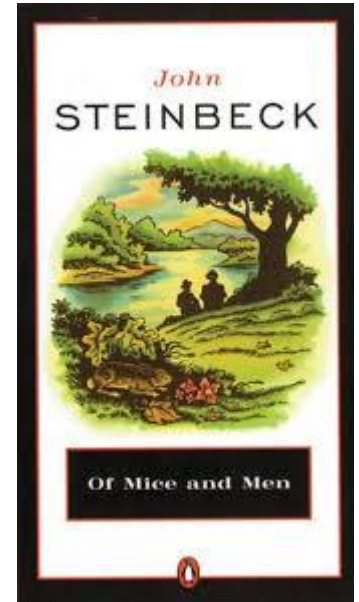
Specifically in the novella

★ An extension of Curley

- Not much character development
- “What kinda harm am I doin’ to you? Seems like they ain’t none of them cares how I gotta live” (Steinbeck, page 88).

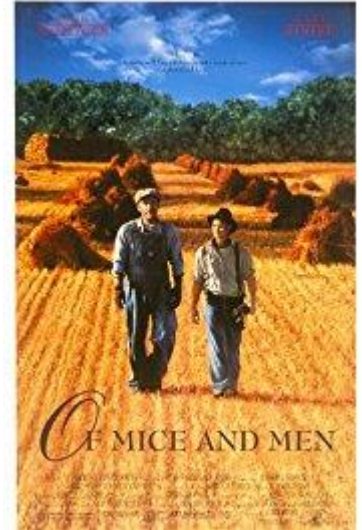
★ Symbolically

- More of a symbol of temptation to lead the audience to expect her to cause trouble
- “She’s gonna make a mess. They’s gonna be a bad mess about her” (Steinbeck, page 51).



Specifically in the movie

- ★ Had much more of a character and appeared more valuable
 - Scene from movie: George taking the mule back to barn and Curley's wife comes in
 - Curley's relationship with wife
- ★ Symbolically
 - Still embodied temptation to some extent
 - Had more life and more effect on the other characters



Loneliness vs. Friendship

Book

- ★ Describes her loneliness and almost fear of Curley
 - “I get lonely,’ you can talk to people, but I can’t talk to nobody but Curley. Else he gets mad”(Steinbeck, page 87)
- ★ Not much of a character, so no time to develop a feeling of loneliness as much
 - In movie we feel bad



Movie

- ★ Shows her loneliness much more through added scenes and character development
 - During any scene she’s in, she is constantly talking about her loneliness
- ★ Much easier to see emotions with visuals

Both

- ★ Expected friendship between Curley and his wife
 - Curley seems to not really pay attention
 - No real friendship