

# OF MICE AND MEN

A Dramatic Reading

by  
John Steinbeck



**Wetmore Declamation Bureau**

**Box 2695  
Sioux City, IA 51106**

**[www.wetmoredeclamation.com](http://www.wetmoredeclamation.com)  
Email: [speeches@wetmoredeclamation.com](mailto:speeches@wetmoredeclamation.com)**

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The scene is a sandy bank of the Salinas River at sunset. Two figures seen entering in single file. George, the short man, throws down his blanket roll.

LENNIE: (Timidly) George, where we goin', George?

GEORGE: So you forgot that already, did you?

LENNIE: I remember about the rabbits, George!

GEORGE: Rabbits! You can't remember nothing but them rabbits.--Wha'd you take out of that pocket? Come on, give it here!

LENNIE: (Holds closed hand away) It's only a mouse. I didn't kill it. Honest. I found it dead.

GEORGE: Give it here!--(Takes mouse, throws it) What do you want of a dead mouse, anyway? Now let's see if you can remember where we're going.

LENNIE: (Looks startled and then embarrassed) I forgot again.

GEORGE: (Resignedly) We are gonna work on a ranch down there about a mile. We're gonna go see the boss; but you're not gonna say nothing.

LENNIE: Not say nothing!

GEORGE: If he finds out what a crazy bastard you are, we won't get no job. But if he sees you work and knows how strong you are, before he hears you talk, we're set. You got that?

LENNIE: Sure, George--sure. I got that.

GEORGE: Okay. (Relaxes) Tomorrow we'll be goin' to work. Tonight there ain't a grain bag or a boss in the world. Tonight, the drinks is on the--house. Nice house we got here, Lennie.

LENNIE: (Plaintively) Ain't we gonna have no supper?

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