Overview of the start of Chapter One:

1. What do George's first words to Lennie tell us about the relationship between the two men?

2. There are three places in the extract where Lennie is compared to an animal. Find them and explain how this gives us a stronger idea of Lennie's physical presence in the novel.

3. What other examples of **imagery** (metaphors and similes) can you find in the extract? How do they give us a clearer picture of the two men and their environment?

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4. **Extension**

Compare the ways in which the two characters talk. How does Lennie's grammar and sentence construction differ from George's? What is particularly characteristic of George's speech, especially when he 'gets mad'?

Overview: Continuation of Chapter One

Quotation: "Lennie spoke craftily, 'tell me–like you done before'.…he brought out two spoons and passed one of them to Lennie" (13-15).

1. Steinbeck indicates that this conversation has happened many times before. Find **three** quotations from the extract that show this. What is the significance of this?

2. George's mood changes through the extract. Show **how** Steinbeck presents this, and suggest why it is so. (Clue: Steinbeck's use of **adverbs** may help you see this).

3. What do Lennie's contributions and interruptions tell us about his character?

4. George often uses the specific colloquial language of the itinerant worker. Copy down these examples from the extract and explain *in your own words* what they mean:

    'work up a stake'   **'blow their stake'**
     'get the jack'   **'poundin' their tail'**

5. How does the extract tie in with what you know about 'The American Dream'? Do you think George and Lennie's plans are realistic or romantic? How does Steinbeck give us a clue about this?

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6. **Extension**

Some critics have accused Steinbeck of portraying the relationship between George and Lennie in an overly sentimental way. Find some examples in the extract that these critics might have been thinking of, and try to explain their viewpoint. What do you think about this issue?