

SAY	MEAN	MATTER
<p>“You ...an’ me. Ever’body gonna be nice to you. Ain’t gonna be no more trouble. Nobody gonna hurt nobody nor steal from em” (106).</p>	<p>As Curley prepares to hunt down Lennie as retribution for his wife’s slaying, Lennie and George return to their “safe place”, the river banks where they once pondered their dreams of a simple life together. With the realization that Lennie is simply too fragile and flawed for this world, George prepares to make the ultimate act of friendship and sacrifice- the killing of his closest friend.</p>	<p>Steinbeck’s use of colloquial and simple diction contrasts sharply with the grave act George is ready to perform, highlighting this brave act of friendship. George’s placating tone demonstrates to the reader that, although his exterior appears to be coarse and rough, he is characterized as a man of great integrity and kindness. The use of repetition, “Nobody gonna hurt nobody”, creates a rhythmic soothing mood that gives the reader a sense that George is acting as a father putting a child to sleep. In addition, the irony of his speech is seen as George tells his best friend that nobody will hurt him as he prepares himself to steady his gun and deliver Lennie to his death. Steinbeck’s use of irony emphasizes that friendship can sometimes be demonstrated through acts of great self sacrifice, and even violence.</p>