

1 This extract is from chapter 4 when Lennie enters Crooks' room, which is unusual for him as he normally doesn't have many friends due to the racism in society.

Crooks talks 'excitedly', revealing that he's happy that he's got someone to talk to. This also highlights his loneliness. His 'excitement had increased' as he realises that Lennie doesn't understand racism or see the colour of his skin, emphasising how ~~dis~~ much Crooks has been discriminated against. This is clear ^{to the reader} as he gets so worked up about just having someone to talk to, revealing how used to be lonely he is, as he says 'It's just bein' with another guy'.

However, after he realises this, his voice becomes 'soft and persuasive' and he says 'I s'pose George don't come back'. Steinbeck uses this to show the reader that due to his discrimination, Crooks needs to feel like he has power over someone. This also shows the reader that prejudice isn't just a common characteristic of the white ranch workers, but of everyone, revealing that Crooks needs that security and to feel important. This is further conveyed when his face 'lighted with pleasure in his torture', showing the reader that he's so used to discrimination that it pleases him when the roles are reversed.

Crooks 'bored in' on Lennie and said that they'll 'tie ya up', revealing that he has a mean side to his character.

as he enjoys tormenting Lennie. However, when he 'saw the danger', he was reminded of his place in society and became submissive; Steinbeck uses this to highlight to the reader that he's become able to sense danger due to past discrimination, and is afraid of the consequences. He then tells Lennie 'George ain't hurt' to reassure him and prevent any danger, showing the reader that he understands Lennie. He then talks 'gently', contrasting with his previous speech, revealing that he can also be a sympathetic character as he understands why Lennie wouldn't want to be alone.

The extract ends with Crooks saying that when he 'gets too lonely he gets sick'. Steinbeck uses this to emphasise his loneliness to the reader and show ~~that~~ how much it hurts him to the reader.

b John Steinbeck uses the character of Curley's wife to highlight the misogyny and patriarchal society in 1930s America.

Firstly, she's never given a name, ^{and is just called 'Curley's wife'} ~~say~~ which dehumanises her and presents her as an object or possession. Since the novella is a microcosm of 1930s America, Curley's wife represents mostly all women, as she's the only girl on the ranch, therefore conveying that all women in society weren't viewed as human or equal.

We hear about her ~~but~~ from Candy and the other ranch hands before we even meet her. Lots of degrading names are used, such as 'tramp', 'poison', and 'jailbait', which creates a biased opinion in the reader. This bias mirrors the misogyny in society and shows the reader what most people thought of women. In addition, this is also connected to Eve in the Garden of Eden, as she's described as very manipulative, and essentially causes the downfall of men. Steinbeck uses this to further convey what people's opinions would have been and also to link in their religious beliefs towards women.

Curley's wife is described as having an 'ache for attention', which emphasises how lonely she feels. However, the men take this in the wrong way and say that she's 'got the eye', when, in reality, she just needs someone to talk to. This reflects society's view of women in 1930s America, as they're presumed to be manipulative.

However, through this loneliness, Curley's wife preys on the weaknesses of others to give herself some security. You can see this when she says 'a nigger an' a dum dum an' a lousy old sheep'. She feels the need to defend herself, ~~as she~~ similar to Crooks, as in society there's no room for weakness or vulnerability.

Steinbeck uses pathetic fallacy to emphasise society's viewpoint on women. When Curley's wife enters a room, the 'light was cut off'. This is conveying that wherever she goes, she attracts negative attention and brings darkness. ~~This is~~ In addition, this is ironic as her dream is to be in the limelight, yet all she does is cast shadows; she's constantly just 'looking in'. This separates her from the other workers, and therefore society, which is the causation of her loneliness. However, after she has died, 'light streaks' the barn, suggesting that in death she is better as all the 'meaness...plannings...discontent were gone'. This could convey that society ~~doesn't~~ ^{didn't} care about women; they were better off dead, or that the light mirrored her changing appearance and personality.

Steinbeck also uses her sexuality to present women as society would have viewed them. The colour 'red' is repeated, or which has connotations of danger, as she is trouble for the ranch workers. Furthermore, she stands with her 'body thrown forwards'. The ~~an~~ workers take this as her flirting and ignore her, due to this danger, but she knows that her looks are the only power she'll ever have over the ranch, and

tries to use this to cure her loneliness. Although she's above the workers in the social hierarchy, they fear her and refuse to talk to her, but she is constantly apart from Curley, and so receives little attention from anybody. Steinbeck further uses this separation to show society's attitudes to marriage, as they were both almost forced into it, but Curley exploits her for his own gain. Curley often visits the 'Cathouse', ~~and~~ conveying that they aren't satisfied in their marriage and emphasising how little respect he has for her.

In conclusion, Steinbeck uses Curley's wife to emphasise society's negative views on women; they were seen as weaker, both physically and morally. This peaks when Curley's wife dies, as it's essentially her that destroys the chances of George and Lennie's dream farm, just like Eve destroyed man's happiness in the Garden of Eden.

6

The first poem is called 'All is well', showing that Holland thinks that there's a positivity to death, nothing bad has happened. It's a reassurance to the readers that he is fine and happy, and so he is trying to prevent them from feeling sadness or any negative emotions in regards to himself.

He describes death as being 'nothing at all', since he has moved on, 'into the next room', conveying that he believes death isn't the end, it's the beginning of something new. This has an effect on the reader as it reassures them that he's not truly gone, but has simply moved onto a different stage; he still lives on, even if his body doesn't.

This viewpoint is continued throughout the poem, as he explains that 'we are still'; nothing has changed between them. He urges the reader to call him by his 'old familiar name' and speak to him in an 'easy way', suggesting that he wants to be remembered by his loved ones. This could also convey that he wants to live on in their memories, ~~and so won't be truly dead~~ ^{suggests to the reader that he} and so [^] ~~maybe~~ fears being forgotten more than actually ~~dying~~ dying. Furthermore, Holland uses imperatives such as 'Call' and 'Speak' to reinforce these instructions to the reader, emphasizing that he wants to be remembered.

Lots of happy memories are described to the reader, like 'jokes' and how they 'laughed', which are used by Holland to make them remember him in a positive light and as being happy. He doesn't want there to be any negativity or a 'trace of shadow' tainting his

memory, both for himself and the reader, as he doesn't want them to be upset. However, I think he says this more for himself and his own benefit, as he's afraid of being forgotten and wants the reader to 'think' and 'pray' for him.

Holland describes his name as a 'household world', suggesting that in life ^{everything} ~~the house~~ revolved around him and he was the centre.

As he was the 'world', this would impact the people the poem is addressed to ^{when} ~~if~~ he died, so he reassures them that they can 'let it be spoken without effect' or negativity, and that ~~nothing~~ ^{nothing will} change.

He describes the 'unbroken continuity' of life, conveying that he thinks death should have no impact on anyone as it's 'the same' and an ^{ongoing} cycle. He asks a question about being 'out of mind', reinforcing the idea that he refuses to be forgotten just because he's 'out of sight', he's still there in spirit and at the centre of things.

The poem ends with him 'waiting... somewhere very near' and 'all is well', showing that he doesn't think it'll be very long before they meet again, and so there's no need for the usual sadness surrounding death, as it isn't the end. He reassures the reader that everything is fine, impacting them in a positive way.

The second poem is called '04/01/07', which suggests that McMillan will never forget his mother's death and it's significant. This has an impact on the reader as it ^{could} ~~shows~~ show that he's still distraught over her death, whereas in 'All is Well', it reassures the reader. This already shows the reader that there is a difference

between the positivity and negativity in them both. In addition, the first poem is about the poet's own death and so contains more personal feelings and his own view on death, whereas the second one is about his mother's death and its effect on himself. Holland's focus is more on the effect of death on the reader and so tries to reassure them, whereas McMillan's focus is on himself and his reaction.

McMillan begins by using very harsh and abrupt language, such as 'shatters', to show the sudden death and how ~~it~~ destructive it is. This contrasts with Holland as, although they're both about death, Holland is more relaxed and uses calm language, such as 'slipped'. This ~~the~~ mirrors the contrast between their viewpoints, as Holland is calm and accepting of death, whereas McMillan sees it as negative and violent.

~~However~~, McMillan^{also} describes it as very abrupt as he says 'suddenly' and that it only took a 'moment' for her 'life to pass'. However, Holland doesn't see this change as he calls it an 'unbroken continuity', suggesting that nothing has happened. This is a contrast, as McMillan sees it as a major event and as having a huge effect on himself; this has a negative effect on the reader as they understand how quickly death can happen, possibly creating fear.

However, there is a similarity in that McMillan can 'feel you there', suggesting that he may believe that there's something after death, similar to Holland. This is reassuring to both of them but in different ways,

Holland is reassured that he'll live on and be remembered and McMillan is reassured that his mother is not truly gone, there's a chance that he may see her again.

McMillan says that 'tears slap my torn face', emphasising the pain of death to the reader and it's harsh reality. This again contrasts with Holland, who is at peace as he views it as 'the same' and as not having a negative effect on himself as he knows it's not the end. McMillan also says that he's 'trapped' and 'empty', further highlighting the effect on himself and how big of a loss it was. He ends with a feeling that the 'story ends here', suggesting that he's unsure that there's life after death, in comparison to Holland who has a certainty that he's just in 'the next room'. This difference in opinion ~~shows that~~ justifies the differences in their emotions, as McMillan is distraught ~~as~~ due to the belief that he'll never see his mother again. This has an effect on the reader as it creates a fear of death and of loved ones as it shows the consequences for McMillan, whereas Holland removes the fear and is reassured that there can still be a positivity surrounding his own death.

In conclusion, I think that the poems both have very contrasting effects on me, ~~as~~ but highlight the difference between your own death and the death of a loved one. Holland is calm and not worried because he's not thinking about the effects on his family e.g. when he's died and expects them to be happy, whereas

McMillan has to deal with his mother's death and so is effected differently.