

# Mercy

# KILLING

Name:

Teacher:

Class:

Date:

## Discussion Questions

### Round 1

**Directions:** Answer each question on a separate sheet of paper. For each answer, make sure to cite supporting evidence (specific examples/quotes) from the articles or from the novel.

### **Mercy Killing Articles**

1. If someone wants to die, is it his/her choice? Should the government have a say in the matter?
2. What would you do if one of your family members was suffering and told you that they didn't want to live any longer?
3. "It's a homicide and murdering another human cannot be rationalized under any circumstances" (M, par. 12). Do you agree with this statement? Explain your reasoning.
4. Euthanasia is legal for animals. Do you think it should stay that way or should animals die naturally like humans?

### **Of Mice and Men**

5. Why didn't George escape with Lennie and run away like last time in Weed?
6. What do you think was going through George's head when he was about to kill Lennie? What kind of hesitancy did he show? What do his actions demonstrate about his character?
7. What do you think Carlson's intentions were behind putting Candy's dog down? How do you think this relates to the debate of legalizing euthanasia?
8. Since Lennie didn't choose to die, is his death considered murder? Did George have the responsibility to tell Lennie that he was going to end his life? If Lennie had understood the situation, do you think he would have wanted to die?

# Discussion Questions

## Round 2

**Directions:** Answer each question on a separate sheet of paper. For each answer, make sure to cite supporting evidence (specific examples/quotes) from the articles or from the novel.

### **Mercy Killing Articles**

1. If euthanasia were legalized, what restrictions should be applied? What are some ways to control the use of euthanasia so it is not misused?
2. How is mercy killing dying with honor? How is it different from giving up?
3. What psychological and emotional effects does mercy killing have on the person taking the life of his/her loved one?
4. “William Lyle Dresser killed his wife, but he is not a murderer...” (Damon, par. 17). Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

### ***Of Mice and Men***

5. Was George’s decision to end Lennie’s life at all influenced by Candy’s predictions about what would occur if Lennie was found by Curley?
6. Was George justified in deciding Lennie’s fate? If he cared about him, how could he pull the trigger?
7. Is Curley’s wife to blame for Lennie’s death?
8. Do you think George considered the benefits of getting rid of Lennie before he pulled the trigger? What will George’s life be like now that he doesn’t have to take care of Lennie?

