Below is a jumble of 25 points about animals and creatures in the novel. These are the sorts of points that you would make if you had to write an essay on this topic. There are 5 points for each of the bubbles on the spider diagram, which have been given a colour code. For example, this means that somewhere in the list below there are 5 points that would go with the bubble “PINK - Lennie’s relationships with animals.”

**TASK A - Find the 5 points to go with each of the 5 bubbles.** You can do this by highlighting, by using coloured pencils or by writing the colour next to the point. The first two have been done for you as examples.

1. Slim kills at birth several of his dog’s puppies, showing the practical attitude to animals on the ranch as these puppies are not needed and Lulu cannot feed them all. (**ORANGE**)

2. Candy is upset that he has allowed someone else to kill his dog. This links with the novel’s ending when George musters his courage to kill Lennie, ensuring that he dies happy and unafraid. (**BLUE**)

3. In the opening paragraphs of the novel, Steinbeck creates a picture of the natural world being disturbed by humans as the animals flee to safety. (**_______**)

4. Steinbeck describes Lennie as being like a horse when he drinks. Like an animal, he is simply answering a basic need. (**_______**)

© 2003 www.teachit.co.uk
5. At the end in the clearing, the heron eats a water snake, demonstrating Nature’s way of the survival of the fittest. (________)

6. Carlson is the most forthright in his views on Candy’s dog. He can see no further use for it, stating that it is unkind to let it live. (________)

7. Because he is black, Crooks is treated on the ranch as little better than an animal. He is made to live in the barn with the horses and the smell of their manure. (________)

8. When a mule splits its hoof, Crooks and Slim tend to it. This attention is needed for practical, unsentimental reasons to keep it as a useful, working creature on the ranch, unlike Candy’s dog. (________)

9. Another piece of animal imagery for Lennie is when Steinbeck describes him as a terrier because he is so tenacious, always unwilling or unable to release his hold. (________)

10. When Lennie explains early in the novel how he always unintentionally killed the mice that his Aunt Clara gave him, Steinbeck is giving the reader an indication of how he is unable to control his strength. (________)
11. Lennie kills the puppy with his heavy-handed petting and clumsy shows of affection. (_______)

12. Candy's dog has for many years provided companionship for him, regardless of the fact that it has long since stopped being a useful and skilful sheepdog. (_______)

13. In the barn, as Curley's wife's body is discovered, Steinbeck emphasises the ranch animal noises that accompany this scene. (_______)

14. Steinbeck's simile that compares Lennie to a bear conveys a mixture of brute strength and innocence. (_______)

15. When Lennie tries to sneak the puppy into the bunkhouse, his low animal mentality is immediately obvious to George. This incident shows that Lennie cannot help but get into trouble. (_______)

16. Steinbeck's detail of the noise that the lizards make adds sounds to the opening scene. (_______)

17. The dog's mercy-killing is paralleled by the ending. Both the dog and Lennie are crippled, one physically and the other mentally: both are shot with the same gun. (_______)
18. When Lennie claims that he will go and live in a cave, and George states that someone will shoot him, the author is suggesting Lennie’s similarity to a wild animal. (________)

19. In his description of the carp’s movement, Steinbeck stresses how Nature is full of strange forces. (________)

20. Lennie yearns to tend rabbits so that he can pet and protect them. His childlike character is shown by the fact that he wants different-coloured ones. (________)

21. Steinbeck again likens Lennie to a bear with paws during the confrontation with Curley. Here, Lennie shows only an animal’s sense of self-protection. He is not aggressive though it is interesting to note that Curley is compared to a rat. (________)

22. The importance of rabbits to Lennie, the killing of Curley’s wife and the muddle in his brain about being in trouble all join at the end of the novel to make him hallucinate a giant rabbit. (________)

23. The fact that the dog is near the end of its life suggests the same idea about Candy. (________)
24. The dove symbolises peace, conveying the tranquillity of the scene before George and Lennie appear. (________)

25. Slim is a jerkline skinner who controls the mules with a skill that makes him respected and admired on the ranch. (________)

**TASK B - Now find a quotation from the novel for each of the 25 points.** Write it in the space below each point.

**P. Q. C.**
If you were to have an essay on Steinbeck's use of animals and creatures in *Of Mice and Men*, you would now be able to shape this material into five paragraphs. These five paragraphs are represented by the five bubbles on the spider diagram. In each of those paragraphs, you would have a good selection of P. Q. C.
ANIMALS AND CREATURES IN *OF MICE AND MEN*

**Point and Quote and Comment**

- **PINK**
  - Lennie's relationships with animals
  - *By the pool - the brush*
  - Final chapter

- **YELLOW**
  - Working animals on the ranch
  - Mice
  - Pups

- **ORANGE**
  - Slim's dog and pups
  - Mules
  - Horses in barn

- **GREEN**
  - Descriptions of Lennie comparing him to animals

- **BLUE**
  - Candy's dog

- **rabbits**

© 2003 www.teachit.co.uk