

Name _____

Period _____

Standards Focus: Conflict and Effect**Chapter Four**

Conflict is the struggle between opposing forces in a story. Three common types of conflict are:

- **Character versus character**—when a character struggles against a character or a particular problem that another character has caused.
- **Character versus self**—when a character struggles with himself about a problem of his own; usually a moral or ethical issue, or a physical obstacle
- **Character versus nature**—when a character faces a force such as the weather or an adverse setting or environment

In *Of Mice and Men*, conflict surrounds the plot and is a major part of the action. Several conflicts emerge at the same time, and ultimately cause the plot to materialize into an interesting and suspenseful story.

Directions: For each situation from Chapters 1-4 below, identify the type of conflict the situation represents. Then identify the effect that the conflict has had on the plot so far. An example has been done for you.

Conflict	Type of Conflict	Effect
George gets frustrated and irritated with the fact that Lennie has trouble remembering things, and often scolds him for forgetting.	Character versus character	George has to take care of Lennie as if he were a child, like carrying his work card for him, and speaking on his behalf.
1) Lennie likes to pet soft things, such as mice, but tends to pet them too hard or kill them, unaware of his own strength.		
2) George complains that if he didn't have to take care of Lennie he would have a better life, and would be able to do the things he always wanted to do.		
3) George and Lennie dream of one day being able to own their own farm, and to work only for themselves, but for now they must work to survive.		
4) Curley, who has been known to pick fights with bigger men, picks a fight with Lennie.		
5) Curley is jealous and suspicious of his wife, who seems to flaunt herself in front of other men.		
6) Hoping to avoid any trouble, Lennie suggests that he and George leave the ranch.		
7) Crooks lives apart from the other men, ostracized, merely because he is African-American.		