

1. splashing
éclaboussures

2. came crashing back
revint avec fracas

3. gi'me = give me

4. made an elaborate
pantomime of
innocence feignit
l'innocence de manière
élaborée

5. you ain't puttin'
nothing over tu vas
pas me la faire

6. sock you cogner

7. reluctantly
à contrecoeur

8. lyn' etalée

9. outstretched
tendue

10. drew back recula

11. snapped claqua

to himself. There were sounds of splashing¹ down the river in the direction Lennie had taken. George stopped whistling and listened.

"Poor bastard," he said softly, and then went on whistling again.

Extract 2
In a moment Lennie came crashing back² through the brush. He carried one small willow stick in his hand. George sat up. "Awright," he said brusquely. "Gi'me³ that mouse!"

But Lennie made an elaborate pantomime of innocence⁴. "What mouse, George? I ain't got no mouse."

George held out his hand. "Come on. Give it to me. You ain't puttin' nothing over⁵."

Lennie hesitated, backed away, looked wildly at the brush line as though he contemplated running for his freedom. George said coldly, "You gonna give me that mouse or do I have to sock you⁶?"

"Give you what, George?"

"You know God damn well what. I want that mouse."

Lennie reluctantly⁷ reached into his pocket. His voice broke a little. "I don't know why I can't keep it. It ain't nobody's mouse. I didn't steal it. I found it lyn'⁸ right beside the road."

George's hand remained outstretched⁹ imperiously. Slowly, like a terrier who doesn't want to bring a ball to its master, Lennie approached, drew back¹⁰, approached again. George snapped¹¹ his fingers sharply, and at the sound Lennie laid the mouse in his hand.

"I wasn't doin' nothing bad with it, George. Jus' strokin' it!"

George stood up and threw the mouse as far as he could into the darkening brush, and then he stepped to² the pool and washed his hands. "You crazy fool. Don't you think I could see your feet was wet³ where you went across⁴ the river to get it?" He heard Lennie's whimpering cry and wheeled about⁵. "Blubberin'⁶ like a baby! Jesus Christ! A big guy like you." Lennie's lip quivered⁷ and tears started in his eyes. "Aw, Lennie!" George put his hand on Lennie's shoulder. "I ain't takin' it away jus' for meanness⁸. That mouse ain't fresh, Lennie; and besides, you've broke it pettin' it. You get another mouse that's fresh and I'll let you keep it a little while."

Lennie sat down on the ground and hung his head dejectedly⁹. "I don't know where there is no other mouse. I remember a lady used to give 'em to me—ever¹⁰ one she got. But that lady ain't here."

George scoffed¹¹. "Lady, huh? Don't even remember who that lady was. That was your own Aunt Clara. An' she stopped givin' 'em to ya. You always killed 'em."

Lennie looked sadly up at him. "They was¹² so little," he said, apologetically¹³. "I'd pet 'em, and pretty soon they bit my fingers and I pinched¹⁴ their heads a little and then they was dead—because they was so little.

"I wisht¹⁵ we'd get the rabbits pretty soon, George. They ain't so little."

1. strokin' it la caresser

2. stepped to s' approcha

3. wet mouilles

4. across = across

5. whimpering cry
and wheeled about
pleurnichements et se
retourna brusquement

6. blubberin' chialer

7. quivered trembla

8. for meanness
pour être méchant

9. dejectedly d'un air
abatitu

10. ever = every

11. scoffed se moqua

12. they was = they were

13. apologetically
d'un air désolé

14. pinched pinçait

15. wisht = wish