

## *Of Mice and Men* Chapter 2 focus: language

**Jargon:** special words or expressions that are used by a particular profession or group and are difficult for others to understand

**Colloquialism:** the use of informal words or phrases in writing or speech, often defined by their use within a dialect determined by region

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**DIRECTIONS:** Below, you will find some jargon and colloquial terms you will encounter in Chapter 2. When you're finished reading, copy terms/phrases and place them into the proper categories at the bottom of this document, and then answer the question below them.

**Sore as hell:** angry

**Pants rabbits:** A sexually transmitted disease

**Graybacks:** The equivalent of ticks or lice.

**Swamper:** The term "swamper" simply refers to the fact that he literally "swamps" or washes out the bunkhouse where the men on the ranch live.

**Bindle:** A bag, sack, or carrying device.

**Jerklime skinner:** Lead driver of a team of mules

**Flapper:** mouth

**Get the can:** get fired

**Buck barley:** To throw large bags of barley on a truck.

**Got the eye:** is flirtatious

**Tramp:** sexually promiscuous

**Stable Buck:** A derogatory name for an African-American man who works in the stables.

**Ain't got the poop:** has no energy, is of little use

**Give us a bum steer:** give wrong directions

**Glove's fulla Vaseline:** to moisturize, soften hand

**Get a little stake:** save a bit of money

**Hair hung in little rolled clusters like sausages:** ringlet, bouncy curls

**Piece of jailbait:** female who might get a man sent to jail

**a rat-trap:** captures and causes serious harm

**Setting/ranch job related:**

**Character descriptions of Curley**

**Character descriptions of Curley's wife**

**Common expressions:**

**Jargon**

## Colloquialism

**QUESTION:** Why would Steinbeck choose to use this language?