***Of Mice and Men* chapter 2 – tasks**

1. **Setting in Chapter 2:**

Steinbeck uses his settings to reinforce his themes, particularly the theme of loneliness.

Reread the opening description of the bunkhouse in chapter 2 of the novel up to “The wooden latch raised.”

Read each of the following quotations and write what it suggests to you about the men’s living conditions and lifestyle.

A few words have been highlighted in bold, so think carefully about what is suggested by them.

*“The bunkhouse was a* ***long****,* ***rectangular*** *building.”*

*“Inside the walls were* ***whitewashed*** *and the floor unpainted.”*

*“Over each bunk there was nailed an apple box with the opening forward so that it made* ***two shelves*** *for the personal belongings of the occupant of the bunk.”*

*“And these shelves were loaded with* ***little articles****, soap and talcum powder, razors…and those Western magazines ranch men love to read and scoff at and* ***secretly believe****.”*

*“In the middle of the room stood a big, square table* ***littered with playing cards****”*

1. **Curley**

Pick 6 words or phrases to describe Curley.

Write a paragraph describing your first impression of him. Support this with quotations from the text.

1. **Language**

Pick some words and slang phrases from the text that you do not know. Try to look them up. Look at the word used to describe coloured people in the text. What does this tell us about race relations at the time?