“How’d you like the boss?” he asked.
“Pretty good. Seemed awright.”
“He’s a nice fella,” The swamper agreed. “You got to take him right.”

At that moment a young man came into the bunk house; a thin young man with a brown face, with brown eyes and a head of tight curled hair. He wore a work glove on his left hand, and, like the boss, he wore high-heeled boots.

“How’d you like the boss?” he asked.

The swamper said, “He was jus’ here a minute ago, Curley. Went over to the cook house, I think.”

“I’ll try to catch him,” said Curley. His eyes passed over the new men and he stopped. He glanced coldly at George and then Lennie. His arms gradually bent at the elbows and his hands closed into fists. He stiffened and went into a tight crouch. His glance was at once calculating and pugnacious. Lennie squirmed under the look and shifted his feet nervously. Curley stepped gingerly closer to him.

“You the new guys the old man was waitin’ for?”

“We just came on,” said George.

“Let the big guy talk.”

Lennie twisted with embarrassment.

George said, “S’pose he don’t want to talk?”

Curley lashed his body around. “By Christ, he’s gotta talk when he’s spoke to. What the hell are you getting’ into it for?”

1. How does the atmosphere change in the extract? Use evidence in your answer.

2. What do we learn about Curley? Use evidence in your answer.

3. What do we learn about Lennie and George? Use evidence in your answer.

4. What do you notice about the language that the characters use? What does that tell the reader about them?