Of Mice and Men – chapters 4,5 reading guide

Construct responses for the following questions based on evidence, support, and examples from the text. As you read, you should take notes on characters, conflict, and themes. In your answers, please restate the questions, thoroughly answer the questions, and support your logical response with text evidence. A well-used quote is great as long as you explain its use, as well as copy it correctly.

1. Hypothesize why Crooks, the stable hand, was at first not nice to Lennie.
2. Explain the connections that Lennie and Crooks eventually made. Include what Lennie offers Crooks that Crooks desires more than anything else.
3. Crooks has a cynical outlook on life. Give reasons for this.
4. Steinbeck continues his use of repetition in chapter 4, make an inference as to why. *“ …for the horses were moving restlessly and the halter chains clinked.”*
5. Identify the universal theme in this chapter. Support your ideas with specific examples from the text.
6. Curley’s wife makes a profound statement that, “*You’re all scared of each other, that’s what. Ever’ one of you’s scared the rest is goin’ to get something on you*.” Decide if you think this is a true observation and justify your position.
7. Curley’s wife provides yet another character who fits the theme with her remarks, “*Well, I ain’t giving you no trouble. Think I don’t like to talk to somebody ever’ once in a while? Think I like to stick in that house alla time?”*  Analyze her meaning with these words.
8. As much as the characters seem to value friendship and companionship, they do not always treat others kindly. Provide an example and a brief discussion about a selection of text that you feel exemplifies this attitude.
9. Lennie does not seem to be affected by color or stereotypes. Describe how this gives him an advantage.
10. Even after the events play out in chapter 5, Candy still clings to hope. Draw conclusions that illustrate that hope is a theme for the book.