The Need for Companionship

Everyone needs some form of companionship. Humans are a social race where individuals need the companionship of others. Most humans are social. Because of this trait, people converge in groups of companions. In order to quench their thirst for sociality, people need others to talk to. Also, many people enjoy the atmosphere of being with other people. They enjoy being in groups because of the feeling of companionship that they find in a group's atmosphere. In addition, some people must seek companionship in order to be happy. These people think that the more friends they have, the happier they will be because they will have a greater feeling of companionship. On the other hand, a few people who have no friends can find themselves feeling depressed. Therefore, because of the great need of companionship, people must have companions in order to be socially and emotionally complete. Finally, a person may become lonely if he has no companions. With no one to talk to or converse with, a person would acquire a feeling of depression and loneliness. In Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, the characters through their actions show a human's need for companionship. George and Lennie seek each other's companionship because they need one another to survive. First, George enables both of them to survive by locating their jobs. Also, he provides food while they journey and finds a place to camp for the night. Secondly, George tries to keep Lennie out of trouble. Thus, he helps Lennie to escape trouble in Weed. While they are in Weed, Lennie sees a pretty girl in a red dress. Lennie is so dumb that, as George says, "...he wants to touch ever'thing he likes. Just wants to feel it" (Steinbeck 41). For that reason, he reaches out to touch the red dress. Of course,
the girl gets scared and starts screaming, frightening Lennie, who holds on. George hears
the racket and runs to the spot. He then "...socked him [Lennie] over the head with a
fence picket to make him let go" (41). The girl then runs off to tell the law that she was
raped. Therefore, George and Lennie have to sit in an irrigation ditch all day to evade the
search party that goes out to lynch Lennie. They wait until nightfall and then they
"...scammed outa there" (42). Secondly, George tells Lennie to let him do the talking.
While they are being interviewed by the boss, George answers all of the questions. Also,
when the boss asks Lennie a direct question, George answers for him. Then the boss, who
was getting suspicious, asks why George acts that way. George answers that they travel
together and that Lennie "'Just ain't bright. But he can do anything you tell him'" (22).
In addition, George tells Lennie what to do. He tells Lennie to watch out for Curley so
that they do not get into a fight. Also, George exhorts Lennie to watch out for Curley's
wife because she will cause them trouble with Curley. Moreover, as petulant Curley
attacks Lennie because he thinks Lennie is laughing at him, George has to tell Lennie
when to fight back. Curley slashes at Lennie's face until it is bleeding, but Lennie is
scared and does not know what to do. George yells "'Get 'im Lennie!' ... 'I said get
him'" (63). Finally, Lennie hears George and as Curley takes another swing at Lennie,
he grabs Curley's hand. Lennie squeezes Curley's hand until Curley's "...struggling had
become weak" (64). It takes both George and Slim to make him let go. Curley's hand
was crushed, and Carlson rushed him to the doctor. Never the less, George needs Lennie
as much as Lennie needs George. Lennie's muscle helps them to get jobs. George tells
the boss that Lennie "...can put up a four hundred pound bale" (22). A bale that heavy
usually takes two men to lift. In addition, possibly more important than Lennie's strength
is that without him George finds it hard to keep the dream alive. Lennie constantly talks about the rabbits they will have and how he will get to tend them. Also, he always wants George to tell the story of the time when they will have their own house and some land of their own. Both of these actions help to keep the plan fresh in George’s mind. George and Lennie need the companionship of Candy. First, George seeks relief in Candy. He does so because he needs someone to confide in about the dream. Also, he wants someone smart to talk to who will help him work out the plan. Secondly, both George and Lennie need the companionship of Candy to make their plan work better. For instance, Candy has saved three-hundred-fifty dollars. He volunteers to donate the money, as long as he is included as a farm helper, to making the plan work. All three of them become excited because the money will help them reach their goal much quicker.

In addition, Candy helps by figuring out ways of making money from the rabbits that they will get.

Crooks and Curley’s wife, who are both lonely, seek companionship from other people. Lonely Crooks finds companionship in Lennie and Candy. Lennie sees Crooks’s light and goes into his room, unwanted, one night. They start to talk. Crooks finds comfort in confiding his troubles in Lennie because Lennie finds the talk inscrutable anyway. This conversation with Lennie helps Crooks to realize his seclusion. Then, Candy, who is looking for Lennie, comes in and stays also. Crooks becomes friendly with Candy, who tells him of the dream. Crooks is hooked by the idea and asks to be included in the enticing dream as an old hand, someone to hoe and do odd jobs. Another lonely person is Curley’s wife. That she dislikes Curley is the cause of her lonesomeness. Because of her loneliness, she seeks companionship of other men on the ranch. For
instance, she tries to join the conversation between Crooks and Candy. Because Curley's wife has a husband, Crooks says "...you better go along to your own house now: we don't want no trouble" (77). They are all afraid of Curley and so they want to stay away from his wife. However, she stays to harass Crooks, but Candy soon becomes angry. He tells her that she has no right to be there and to get out. Even then, she stays until the sound of the other men coming back is heard. Later the next day, she talks again with Lennie because he is the only one who will listen to her.

In *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, the actions of the characters suggest that everyone needs companionship for different reasons. Some need it out of necessity, others loneliness. To many, companionship comes naturally. To others, it must be found. Still more fail to succeed in finding companionship. In Steinbeck's view, some people must strive to quench their need for companionship while to others it comes more naturally, for the world is a non-equitable place.