**Prompt: Write about the most important (or one of the most important) passages from *Of Mice and Men* and why it is important. Include at least 3 direct quotes using correct MLA format for in-text citations. Must be 3 paragraphs long.**

**Example:**

An important passage in *Of Mice and Men* is found after Lennie has run away from the bunkhouse after accidentally killing Curley’s wife. The scene shifts from dialogue between characters to the author’s description of the landscape and details the interaction of a water snake and a heron. Steinbeck describes, “a water snake glided smoothly up the pool, twisting its periscope head from side to side; and it swam the length of the pool and came to the legs of a motionless heron that stood in the shallows” (99). It is important to recognize that the water snake is unaware of the heron as he silently swims alone in the stream. He is described as swimming smoothly against the description of a calm scene.

It is written that “a pleasant shade had fallen” (Steinbeck 99) over the landscape. The words the author uses denote a calmness and beauty in the nature surrounding the heron and water snake. After describing such a scene, Steinbeck then writes that “a silent head and beak lanced down and plucked [the water snake] out by the head, and the beak swallowed the little snake while its tail waved frantically” (99).

This scene in the novel is significant because it directly precedes the scene in which Lennie is shot by George. The parallels between the calm, lonely, and unassuming water snake and the quick, silent heron can be seen in the very next scene. The calmness of the scene interrupted by a quick and harsh death are echoed as George chooses to kill Lennie after encouraging him to think of his dreams and attempts to put him in a state of tranquility.