

Version 1

George looked at the water. The rims of his eyes were red with sun glare. He said, "We could just as well have rode clear to the ranch if that bus driver knew what he was talking about . . ."

Lennie looked over to him. "George?"

"Yeah, what ya want?"

"Where we goin', George?"

The little man pulled down the brim of his hat and looked over at Lennie. "So you forgot that awready, did you? I gotta tell you again, do I?"

"I forgot," Lennie said. "I tried not to forget. I did, George."

"I'll tell ya again. I ain't got nothing to do. Might jus' as well spen' all my time tellin' you things and then you forget 'em, and I tell you again."

"Tried and tried," said Lennie, "but it didn't do no good. I remember about the rabbits, George."

"Forget the rabbits. That's all you ever can remember is them rabbits. O.K. Now you listen and this time you got to remember."

Original

"George stared morosely at the water. The rims of his eyes were red with sun glare. He said angrily, 'We could just as well have rode clear to the ranch if that bastard bus driver knew what he was talking about . . .'

Lennie looked timidly over to him. 'George?'

'Yeah, what ya want?'

'Where we goin', George?'

The little man jerked down the brim of his hat and scowled over at Lennie. 'So you forgot that awready, did you? I gotta tell you again, do I? Jesus Christ, you're a crazy bastard!'

'I forgot,' Lennie said softly. 'I tried not to forget. Honest to God I did, George.'

'O.K.—O.K. I'll tell ya again. I aint't got nothing to do. Might jus' as well spen' all my time tellin' you things and then you forget 'em, and I tell you again.'

'Tried and tried,' said Lennie, 'but it didn't do no good. I remember about the rabbits, George.'

'The hell with the rabbits. That's all you ever can remember is them rabbits. O.K.! Now you listen and this time you got to remember so we don't get in no trouble.'" (pp. 4–5)

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Steinbeck, J. (1993). *Of mice and men*. Penguin Books. (Original work published 1937)