***Of Mice & Men*: Introducing Crooks (Chapter Two: Pages 66-67)**

Crooks, the negro stable buck, had his bunk in the harness room; a little shed that leaned off the wall of the barn. On one side of the little room there was a square four-paned window, and on the other, a narrow plank door leading into the barn.

 This room was swept and fairly neat, for Crooks was a proud, aloof man. He kept his distance and demanded that others keep theirs. His body was bent over to the left by his crooked spine, and his eyes lay deep in his head, and because of their depth seemed to glitter with intensity.

 Crooks sat on his bunk. His shirt was out of his jeans in the back. In one hand he held a bottle of liniment, and with the other he rubbed his spine. Now and then he poured a few drops of the liniment into his pink-palmed hand and reached up under his shirt to rub again. He flexed his muscles against his back and shivered.

1. What is the significance of where Crooks lives? What does the description of the room tell us?
2. “Crooks was a proud, aloof man. He kept his distance and demanded that others keep theirs.” Why might Crooks have this attitude to the other men on the ranch?
3. Crooks’ eyes “glitter with intensity”. What could this tell us about his character?
4. Why does Steinbeck take such trouble to describe Crooks’ damaged back? How does this make the reader feel towards him?