***Of Mice & Men*: Introducing Curley’s Wife (Chapter Two: Page 32)**

Both men glanced up, for the rectangle of sunshine in the doorway was cut off. A girl was standing there looking in. She had full, rouged lips and wide-spaced eyes, heavily made-up. Her fingernails were red. Her hair hung in little rolled clusters, like sausages. She wore a cotton house dress and red mules, on the insteps of which were little bouquets of red ostrich feathers. “I’m looking for Curley,” she said. Her voice had a nasal, brittle quality.

George looked away from her and then back. “He was in her a minute ago, but he went.”

“Oh!” She put her hands behind her back and leaned against the door frame so that her body was thrown forward.

“You’re the new fellas that just come, ain’t ya?”

“Yeah.”

Lennie’s eyes moved down over her body, and though she did not seem to be looking at Lennie she bridled a little. She looked at her fingernails. “Sometimes Curley’s in here,” she explained.

1. “The rectangle of sunshine in the doorway was cut off”. What atmosphere does this create?

1. What is significant about Curley’s wife’s name? Why is she referred to as a “girl”?
2. Curley’s wife is associated with the colour red. Write down a list of associations you have with this colour. What does could this colour tell the reader about her character?
3. Her voice has a “brittle quality”. What does this tell the reader about her character?
4. “She put her hands behind her back and leaned against the door frame so that her body was thrown forward.” Why does she lean on the door in the way that she does?