***Of Mice & Men*: Introducing Slim (Chapter Two: Page 34)**

A tall man stood in the doorway. He held a crushed Stenson hat under his arm while he combed his long, black damp hair straight back. Like the others he wore blue jeans and a short denim jacket. When he had finished combing his hair he moved into the room, and he moved with a majesty only achieved by royalty and master craftsmen. He was a jerkline skinner, the prince of the ranch, capable of driving ten, sixteen, even twenty mules with as single line to the leaders. He was capable of killing a fly on the wheel butt with a bull whip without touching the mule. There was a gravity in his manner and a quiet so profound that all talk stopped when he spoke. His authority was so great that his word was taken on any subject, be it politics or love. This was Slim, the jerkline skinner. His hatchet face was ageless. He might have been thirty-five or fifty. His ear heard more than was said to him, and his slow speech had overtones not of thought, but of understanding beyond thought. His hands, large and lean, were as delicate in their action as those of a temple dancer.

1. How does Steinbeck suggest that Slim is an important character who is vital to the ranch? Use evidence in your answer.

1. What different skills does Slim possess? Why would Steinbeck decide to include them in his initial description?
2. Steinbeck wants to describe Slim as if he is God-like. Do you agree with this statement or not? Use evidence in your answer.
3. Slim is described as both strong and hard but also soft and gentle. Find evidence for each of these ideas.
4. How do you feel about Slim as a character? Use evidence to support your answer.