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Mrs. Shuff

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Sometimes working hard for your dreams can turn into tragedy. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck is a story about two migrant workers who try to accomplish a dream, but fail. “The Scarlet Ibis” is a short story that James Hurst wrote. He wrote about two brothers who struggle to achieve their goals. These two stories have many similarities including dreams, death, and complicated relationships.

One distinct similarity that the novel Of Mice and Men and short story “The Scarlet Ibis” share is the complicated love-hate relationship between the two main characters. George and Lennie always stick together even when Lennie gets them into bad situations. We see this in the story when Lennie is accused of rape in Weed, and George helps him escape. For “The Scarlet Ibis”, the narrator loves his brother and wants him to be normal, and if Doodle fails he gets mad. We see this when Doodle messes up while trying to walk and he yells at him to keep trying.

Of Mice and Men and “The Scarlet Ibis” both involve dreams. George and Lennie’s dream is to get a place of their own. Lennie mentions it constantly when he is feeling down. Narrator and Doodle’s dreams is to have a normal life, and for Doodle to walk. Doodle can’t walk, so the Narrator always tries to help him practice running, climbing, and swimming. Both of their dreams fail. Lennie ruins the dream for George and Candy by killing Curley’s wife, and then got shot. Doodle was left behind at the swamp and dies because he was pushed too far. The death of Lennie and Doodle ruined their dreams completely.

Another similarity between the two stories is that they both end in death. The death of Candy’s dog and the Scarlet Ibis foreshadowed both of the characters deaths. George wanted to end Lennie’s life painlessly because he cares about him, rather then Curley painfully killing Lennie himself. The Scarlet Ibis was out of its comfort zone and died. Doodle also was pushed out of his natural environment. They were both killed by someone they trusted because of their disabilities. Lennie was murdered, and Doodle was unintentionally murdered.

“The Scarlet Ibis” and Of Mice and Men had similarities including dreams, and death and complicated situations. They are about dreams that fail and die. Both main characters are apparently better without Lennie/Doodle. Hopefully they live happily.