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11 LC

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*Of Mice and Men* Synthesis Paragraph Example

***(Sample Intro)*** Love often involves making difficult choices. In *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, George has to make the difficult decision of ending his best friend’s life in order to end his impending suffering. Although this novel was written over 70 years ago, loved ones today still grapple with making similar decisions. Recent news stories reinforce the idea that murder is not always clear cut; people are willing to risk their own freedom in order to save a loved one from suffering.

***(Sample Body Paragraph******)*** There are times when a person would have gone through much greater suffering had someone close to them not taken matters into their own hands. A man from Arizona named George Sanders emotionally described to the detective that his wife, Ginger, began asking him to end her life because “she didn’t want to go the hospital [and have the doctors]…start cutting her toes off” (“Arizona Man”). Ginger would have lost more than just her toes, too. Losing body parts, muscle weakness, and paralysis are all part of the deterioration of a person with Muscular Sclerosis, the disease Ginger had been living with. Ginger would have suffered more in life than in death, and an elderly George would have had great trouble taking care of both of them. The couple made this challenging decision together. George from *Of Mice and Men* also had to make a difficult decision, but he had to make it alone because Lennie could not understand the consequences of what he had done to Curley’s wife. Still, George Milton and George Sanders had the same reason for their actions: to end suffering. At the end of the book, Curley says, “When you see ‘um, give ‘im no chance. Shoot for his gut. That’ll double ‘im over” (Steinbeck 97). George knew that Lennie’s future would only hold torture. Lennie would have either been institutionalized during a time when the mentally ill were put through horrific tests or the mob would torture and/or lynch him. Both George from *Of Mice and Men* and George from the Arizona shooting had loved ones who were doomed to die agonizing deaths, and both men sacrificed their own psychological well-being by committing murder in order to end their loved one’s suffering. As the judge from Sander’s murder trial stated, “It is very clear the he will never forget that his actions ended [her] life” (Arizona Man”).

Works Cited

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