Mice and Men Controlled Assessment

What effect does prejudice have on minor characters in of mice and men?

**They affect them by making the character feel low and feel lonely. John Steinbeck expresses prejudice through the characters crooks and Curley’s wife. For example crooks is black man that live in the barn, the people in the farm always call him a nigger they don’t use his real name, e.g. “yes sir. Jesus, we had fun. They let the nigger come in that night. Little skinner name of smitty toke after the nigger”, but crooks doesn’t care about what they say he puts all of that stuff beneath him and raises up from the hate because he knows he can’t stand a chance against the white people, because back then in the 1930s united states of America black people were segregated and racially discriminated, so for crooks it was a hard time living in the barn in them days. Curley’s wife also experience prejudice in the farm as she was the only woman in the farm and although she was a wife, she felt lonely as her husband did not love her, and she was just seen as a sexual object to him. She was the only woman living on the farm and they all ignored her and did not speak to her which made her feel worthless.**

**Is the stable buck in the farm, he is the one who provides support for the horses in the farm. He has a busted spine because a horse kicked him. The characters in the farm refer to him the ‘nigger’ which we find offensive today. Crooks is sarcastic and uses irony. We feel sorry for him in mice and men because he suffers racial discrimination and he is disabled.**

**Despite being the stable buck crooks proud, independent and intelligent but none of these qualities stop his boss from giving him hell. But some people in the farm don’t give him hell because they know what he is going through and how he is the only black person in the farm. Candy is one of the people that can relate to what crooks is feeling, because candy is old and worthless to all the people in the farm they don’t think much of him, they just think he is old and has a stinky dog. Even Candy himself knows that he is too old to be doing work and he wants to get shot, there is a quote where he says he wants that to happen,” when they can me here I wisht somebody’d shoot me”. I think him saying that because his dog got shot because he was old and stinky, so why wouldn’t they do the same to him. But there is a slight difference with Candy to Crooks- Candy can talk to the white people on the farm without having to get scared if he opens his mouth this his skin is the same colour and he is allowed to play cards with the white people, his dog keeps him company all the time until it got shot in the head by Carlson. Candy knows Crooks is a nice person I think this because candy always talk good about Crooks, for example, “Nice fella too. Got a crooked back where a horse kicked him. The boss gives him hell when he’s mad. But the stable buck doesn’t give a damn about that. He reads a lot. Got books in his room.”**

**When Lennie comes to pet the puppies, not even realizing that Crooks room is out of bounds', Crooks quickly becomes angry and defences "I ain't wanted in the bunk room and you ain't wanted in my room" but Lennie being as childish as he is not knowing why " Why ain't you wanted" he asks. Crooks says back to this "Cause I'm black, they play cards in there but I can't play because I'm black. They say I stink. Well I tell you, all of you stink to me" This line showing that Crooks really wants to join in, be accepted, but because of his colour he can't and so he feels the only way he can make himself feel better is to cut himself off everyone.**

**When Crooks realizes that Lennie means no harm he invites him to talk “Come on in and set a while" Lennie begins to talk about George and his dream, it makes Crooks miss his childhood which he remembers as a kind of paradise. "The white kids come to play at our place, an sometimes I went to play with them and some of them were pretty nice. My ol man didn't like that. I never knew till long later why he didn't like that. But I know now". Crooks' didn't experience racism in his childhood, making him remember this made him feel even worst.**

**Crooks is really likes the strength of the friendship of Lennie and George, Crooks said, "Well, s'pose, jus' s'pose he don't come back. What'll you do then?" Crooks asks these questions because he does not have any friends, and wouldn't know how losing them would feel. He was curious about the friendship of Lennie and George, noticing that Lennie is, he tries to take advantage of the situation "torture" to make him feel better and take away that pain of having other people reject him "Crooks face lighted with pleasure at his torture" he also does this to take away his jealousy of the friendship Lennie has to George, Crooks will probably never have. He wants the people to feel the way that he does, completely alone. Crooks starts to talk about his loneliness “A guy needs somebody to be near him He whined a guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody. Don't make no difference who the guy is, long's he's with you' he cried `I tell ya a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick” Crooks is looking for some sympathy, he is soooo lonely even to the point illness.**

**Then George continues to talk about his dream. Crooks having been on the farm for a long time, he has witnessed a lot of people with the same dream, he starts to mock it "Nobody ever gets to heaven, and nobody never gets no land" but when Candy comes in and starts backs up what George was saying, crooks starts to believe in the dream "If you...guys want a hand to work for nothing-just his keep, why I'd come and lend a hand" Crooks looks at the dream as his escape from what his living in now in the farm, he dreams of the escape to be like his childhood where his colour wouldn't be an issue.**

**There are different levels of racial prejudice shown through the book. Most of the farms men don't like or talk to Crooks but they would not go out of their way to insult him. But Curley's wife on the other hand is rude just blatantly. “Listen, Nigger, she said. `You know what I can do to you if you open you trap' She her position as being a white girl and has no respect for him at all, she doesn't even refer to him by his name. It is people like hers that have turned him into the bitter man he has become "Crooks had reduced himself to nothing. There was no personality, no ego-nothing to arouse either like or dislike"**

**Now am going to look at sexual prejudice with Curley's wife, she is shown a lot of sexual prejudice in Of Mice and Men. Living on the farm with loads of men, it makes her feel very lonely because she can’t talk to women about women stuff and she just look at as a sexual icon. George says "Ranch with a bunch of guys on it ain't no place for a girl”. She is always referred to as `Curley's wife', never given a name. She experiences sexual prejudice because none of the farm work men or hands will talk to her. This is because she can make up things about people she don’t like who will then get `the can' and also because she is a very flirtatious person. "She got the eye goin' all the time on everybody. I bet she even gives the stable buck they eye. I don't know what the hell she wants" says Whit. The men in the farm don't trust her or understand her. George says "Ranch with a bunch of guys on it ain't no place for a girl, specially like her". Her old lover told her that she "coulda went with the shows, not jus one neither" He promised her that he would write to her "Soon's he got back to Hollywood" but he never did and so she married Curley. Because of this now she feels like she shouldn’t have done that. She doesn’t even like Curley "He ain't a nice fella". Because she has nothing to do but sit at home she goes out in the farm and says she looking for Curley which she not. Some of the sexual prejudice she experiences is her fault, but she isn't really a sket, she just really wants attention which she doesn't get from Curley. Ignored by both the farm men and Curley she has ended up very lonely, the one thing she wants is to escape from thee farm.**

**I’ve talk about sexual prejudice and social prejudice**