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Mr. Wittwer

English 9-6

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Crooks A Man Who Doesn't Have to Worry About Racism

He sits in the barely lit room, by himself, the smell of a hard days work lingers in the air and the tiniest hint of liniment. His many possessions around, possessions the other workers only wish to have. In the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, Crooks the stable buck is ~~allowed~~ to live on a little ranch in south Soledad in the 1930's. He has his own room with many possessions. He is ~~allowed~~ to move freely around the grounds and even off the grounds if he wishes. He does his job whenever he wants during the day, where is the other workers have very set schedules. Crooks is not a victim of racism as shown by, what he has, what he does, and what other characters say to him.

The first way Crooks is shown to not be a victim of racism is by what he has, all of the workers on the ranch sleep in the bunk house, except, "Crooks the negro stable buck had his bunk in the harness room; a little shed that leaned off the wall of the barn" (66). Crooks has his own room which means he is privileged. He has his own room which nobody can go in and nobody else on the ranch has their own other than the boss. Not even the second in command Slim. This proves that he is not a victim of racism because if people on the ranch treated him like a slave then he would sleep outside or even with the ~~animals. Also he has a crooked back, so they might have given him special treatment so that he has enough room to move around and not get bumped into. Another~~ ~~animals. Another~~ way Crook's things make him not a victim of racism is all the other workers on the ranch have only what they can carry on there backs but "Crooks

possessed several pairs of shoes, a pair of rubber boots, a big alarm clock, and a single barreled shotgun” (67). Crooks has many possessions which in that time era if you were a victim of racism then people would not sell you things they would kick you out of the store. Also he has the most possession out of every one on the ranch except for the boss. Also this could mean that he has a lot of money because shoes in their day were expensive and usually people would only have one pair of shoes till they wore out and they were usually rubber boots. Crooks also posses a big alarm clock which is a machine. He als ohasd has a shotgun which is expensive and a weapon. Which for the most part only rich people owned. By what he has Crooks isn't a victim of racism.

Comment [EU1]: avoid

Comment [EU2]:

The second way Crooks is not a victim of racism is by what he says. Lennie just walked into Crooks room when, “Crooks said sharply ‘You [Lennie] got no right to be in my room. This here’s my room. Nobody got any right to be in here but me’” (76). He speaks freely to the characters as if he was no different from them and even when he says things rudely nobody reacts differently then if he was a white man. Another reason Crooks is not a victim of racism is because Lennie and Candy are telling Crooks about the little house George and them are going to get when Crooks thinks then says “ ‘...If you... guys would want a hand to work for nothen- just his keep, why I’d come an’lend a hand’” (76). Crooks considers living with white men and the white men have no problem living with him. He also doesn't have a problem with money and he doesn't care if he gets paid. Also he would help out even though he's old and cant do much he offers all he can give to them. he does hesitate though and that shows tha people have turned him down before but these people are different, and he is actually making friends with them and they want to be friends with huim. -This shows that other people don't have a problem with him. If white people would allow him to live with them obviously he is not a victim of racism.

Comment [EU3]:

The third way that shows Crooks is not a victim of racism is by what other characters say to him. All the men were in the bunk house talking and one of the horse needed tar on their foot when Crooks came in and said “ ‘I (Crooks) can do it if you want, Mr. Slim.’ ‘ No I’ll (slim) come do it myself’ ” (50). This shows that people think of him as an equal instead of leaving the grimy jobs for Crooks the second in command Slim does the job himself even though Crooks offers to. If Crooks was a victim of racism slim would just have Crooks do it so he could visit with his friends in the bunk house. Another way to show that by what he says Crooks isn’t a victim of racism is when all the men are playing horseshoes and one ranch hand says “ ‘ Damn right he is. Said Carlson. ‘he don’t give nobody else a chance to win- ’ ” (44). This means that Crooks is ~~allowed~~ to play games with the men, and the men are praising him for being a good player. It proves that other people aren’t racist towards him because if they were they wouldn’t want to play with him and say that he’s good. Or share horseshoes with him, but they do. In this scene Crooks is playing horseshoes with the other workers, socializing with them and probably even touching them like giving a pat on the back or them doing the same for him. All of those things show that the other characters do not care what race Crooks is.

Given what he has, what he says, and what other characters say to him Crooks is most defiantly not a victim of racism. Crooks has many things and is not afraid to talk back to people. It is understood that some people might think he is a victim racism because he has is own room away from the other workers and he doesn’t work with the other workers. However he might have his own room because he has a different work schedule and doesn’t want to woken up when he doesn’t have to be. Also he probably has his own work schedule because he has a crooked back and the owners of the ranch are polite to him and allow him to do jobs when ever during the day. He sets his own alarm clock each night because nobody has a problem with it. He lets that

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wake him up everyday. The quiet little rings and has he opens his eyes sun streaks across his face. Then he gets up and does his jobs during the day whenever he wants with no one giving him trouble. Because Crooks isn't a victim of racism.

Works Cited

Steinbeck, John. [Of Mice and Men. New York, Penguin group 1993.](#)
[*Of Mice and Men.*](#)
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