

## WRITING/GRAMMAR REVIEW EXERCISE

### *Of Mice and Men*

The following passage, taken from *Of Mice and Men*, contains many grammatical errors. Your assignment is to rewrite these paragraphs so that they are perfectly correct in formal, written English.

"What kinda harm am I doin' to you? Seems like they ain't none of them cares how I gotta live. I tell you I ain't used to livin' like this. I coulda made somethin' of myself . . . I lived right in Salinas. Come there when I was a kid. Well, a show come through, an' I met one of the actors. He says I could go with that show. But my ol' lady wouldn' let me. She says because I was on'y fifteen. But the guy says I coulda. If I'd went, I wouldn't be livin' like this, you bet. . . .

'Nother time I met a guy, an' he was in pitchers. Went out to the Riverside Dance Palace with him. He says he was gonna put me in the movies. Says I was a natural. Soon's he got back to Hollywood he was gonna write to me about it. . . . I never got that letter. I always thought my ol' lady stole it. Well, I wasn't gonna stay no place where I couldn't get nowhere or make something of myself, an' where they stole your letters. I ast her if she stole it, too, an' she says no. So I married Curley. Met him out to the Riverside Dance Palace that same night. You listenin'?

Well, I ain't told this to nobody before. Maybe I oughtn'n to. I don't like Curley. He ain't a nice fella. . . . Coulda been in the movies, an' had nice clothes -- all them nice clothes like they wear. An' I coulda sat in them big hotels, an' had pitchers took of me. When they had them previews I coulda went to them, an' spoke in the radio, an' it wouldn'ta cost me a cent because I was in the pitcher. An' all them nice clothes like they wear. Because this guy says I was a natural.