

### Film Viewing Lecture Notes:

- Film and books are different and express themselves in different ways.
- What can be achieved by giving us character thoughts, description, and ideas through **language** has to be achieved **visually** in film?
- Instead of merely identifying differences between the book and the movie, it is better to see what those differences achieve.
  - What does the director achieve by adding scenes or condensing scenes or eliminating or adding characters?
  - How has the director interpreted the themes and characterizations with his or her representations?
    - These are more useful questions than finding differences.
- “Instead of creating a snapshot of the book, the filmmaker reshapes the words into a visual medium that is completely different” (5).

### Of Mice and Men:

- **Camera angle:** high angle, straight-on angle, low angle
  - Of Mice and Men is almost all straight-on angle shots.
    - “The film’s most dramatic high angle shot captures Lennie’s realization that he has killed Curley’s wife in a shot from high above which captures him crouched in terror over the woman’s dead body” (8).
      - What might the filmmaker achieve from this shot?
        - Best laid plans are of mice and men. From this shot we get a big man looking very small. Does this help connect that idea?
- **Close-up:** this shot can heighten mood and intensity. This makes the reader focus on nonverbal communication of the face.
- **Establishing shot:** “shows the relationship among important figures, objects, and characters and setting at a distance. . . . From the establishing shot, the film then cuts to more detailed shots that bring the audience closer to the characters.
- **Flashback**
- **POV**
- **Wide Angle**
- **Zoom**
- **Music**

Think about what is being achieved with the use of the music. Could the film still express what it wants to express without the music?