

their supposed “cruel” action. Occasionally, the supposedly harsh action is the best course of action.

2.

Another example of this, takes place in chapter 5. Curley’s wife is discovered in the barn. Shortly after her uncovering, Curley accuses Lenny of killing his wife, and demands that they find and kill him. Curley declares “I’m gonna get him. I’m going for my shotgun. I’ll kill the big-son-of-a-bitch myself. I’ll shoot ‘im in the guts.” Slim agrees but acknowledges the consequences of letting the chase go on, stating “An s’pose they lock him up an’ strap him down and put him in a cage. That ain’t no good, George.” He suggests that curly should stay back, saying “Curley maybe you should better stay here with your wife.” Curley doesn’t heed his warning and claims he’s gonna get him. Before marching off Curley bellowed “I’m gonna shoot the guts outa that big bastard myself, even if I only got one hand.” Having been told by slim that catching lennie won’t help, he takes his words into consideration, and decides to go to their spot and deal with lennie himself. Soothing him and making his death quick and painless.

In conclusion, none of the decision makers are in the wrong. Even though their actions are perceived as cruel, there are underlying good intentions. After all it’s the thought that counts.