Quotes

“Twinkling over yellow sands…golden foothill slopes…the leaves lie deep and so crisp…rabbits come out of the brush to sit on the sand in the evening.”

“…A path beaten hard by boys coming down from the ranches to swim in the deep pool, beaten hard by tramps… the limb worn smooth by men who have sat on it.”

Context

The landscape around Soledad is described as George and Lenny walk into the area on their way to work at the new ranch.

(REMEMBER: Your context should be describing what is happening around the time of the quotes. This shows me you know what is going on in the story.)

Analysis

Steinbeck’s use of imagery within the setting helps to set the mood of chaos disturbing the peacefulness of the natural world. The water is described as “twinkling over the yellow sands…” as it butts up to the “golden foothill slopes” which paints the picture of a bountiful region in the evening as the day comes to a close. This **diction** along with the **personification** of, “the leaves [lying] deep and so crisp,” further allows one to visualize the potential fall season and imagine what it would feel and sound like to walk on and crunch the leaves. The peacefulness of nature and calmness of “rabbits come[ing] out of the brush to sit on the sand in the evening,” is forcefully disturbed as “a path beaten hard by boys coming down from the ranches to swim.” The emphasis placed on the “beaten path” through the use of **repetition** places a stark contrast with the initial moos by showcasing man’s inherent ability, whether intention or not, to be destructive. The “limb worn smooth by men” indicated this small pool water being a popular spot for people to gather and hang out after the work day. This place seems kind of like an oasis from the outside world and the idea that these travelers all end up here. Steinbeck begins to develop the **theme** of the predatory nature of mankind and the lack of attention they have towards their actions.