

Of Mice and Men Idioms

Chapter One - Idioms

blow their stake: Lose and/or spend all their money

blowin' in our jack: losing, spending, or gambling away all our money

bustin' a gut: Your **gut** is your stomach area. To **bust a gut** is to engage in very hard physical labor -- so hard that you ache all over -- even in your **gut**.

in hot water: to be **in hot water** is to be in trouble.

jungle-up: During the Great Depression, many wanderers (hoboes and [tramps](#)) would settle for the night in groups. These areas would be known as hobo jungles. To **jungle-up** is to camp out for the evening in the company of other like companions of the road.

live off the fatta the lan': Live off the fat of the land. The **fat of the land** is an expression that refers to having the best of everything. In the case of Lennie and George and their dream for a place of their own, it also means that they believe they will be able to survive and prosper by simply relying on what they can grow and raise -- that the land is so "fat" they will need nothing else to be happy.