Who’s to blame for Lennie’s death?

In one of John Steinbeck’s most famous novels Of Mice and Men, Steinbeck talks about a grown man named Lennie who has a mental disability and his best friend George. Lennie likes to pet nice soft things which he always ends up killing because he’s too strong and doesn’t know his own strength. George is like Lennie’s big brother who has to clean up after his mess. George and Lennie travel together looking for jobs to raise money to accomplish their American dream. They end up finding a job at a ranch where they meet Curley the boss’ son, Curley’s wife and other workers at the ranch. Lennie ends up killing Curley’s wife because he was pulling her soft hair too hard he makes her neck snap. Curley ends up finding out Lennie killed his wife and wants to torture and then kill Lennie. George doesn’t want Lennie to suffer so George kills Lennie instantly. There is a debate of who is at fault for Lennie's death. I have to say that Lennie is at fault for his own death because he didn’t listen to George’s orders. Lennie is at fault for his own death because George specifically told him not to talk to Curley’s wife. In the novel George says “Listen to me, you crazy bastard don’t even take a look at that bitch. I don’t care what she say or what she does” (Steinbeck 30). When Curley’s wife goes into the barn where Lennie was he tells her that George specifically told him not to talk to her. For example Lennie says “If George sees me talkin’ to you he’ll give me hell” (Steinbeck 83). Lennie didn’t listen to what George said and he began talking to Curley’s wife. Curley’s wife started to talk about how she wanted to be an actress and all Lennie did was talk about how
he’s going to get rabbits and pet them because they’re soft. Curley’s wife told Lennie to touch her hair. She stated “Here - feel right here. She took Lennie’s hand and put it on her head. Feel right aroun’ there an’ see how soft it is” (Steinbeck 86). Lennie started pulling her hair because he enjoyed it. He was pulling so hard that she started screaming. Lennie pulled too hard that he ultimately killed her by her neck breaking. Lennie said “Don’t you go yellin’, he said, and he shook her; and her body flopped like a fish. And she was still, for Lennie had broken her neck” (Steinbeck 87). If Lennie hadn’t killed her, Curley wouldn’t of wanted to kill Lennie and George wouldn’t have had to kill Lennie so he wouldn’t suffer at the hands of other men. Lennie is at fault for his own death because he did not follow George’s orders.

In conclusion Lennie is to blame for his own death. If Lennie would have listened to what George and did not talk to Curley’s wife George wouldn’t have had to kill him. Lennie was already causing too much damage killing animals and people. If George never have had killed Lennie, Lennie would probably run into more trouble. Curley would have made Lennie suffer by shooting him in the guts. George did the right thing of killing Lennie. George wouldn’t of had to kill Lennie if Lennie hadn’t kill Curley’s wife.

Works Cited