

English 1302

Questions to Consider

“Where are You Going, Where have You Been?”
Joyce Carol Oates

Choose one of the following questions to answer and use the notes section on the back of this page to outline your ideas.

Questions

1. Oates has said that she was inspired to write this story by Bob Dylan’s song, "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue." She even dedicates the story to him. Find the lyrics to the song and read them. Discuss the connection between the two. What does the song highlight or reveal in the story?
2. How would you describe Connie’s relationship with her mother, sister, and father? What
3. is “missing” from the family?
4. How is religion represented in this story? Are there any symbols, characters, allusions, or language that signifies a specific type of religion or different kind of religion?
5. Is Connie’s going with Arnold a sacrifice or a weakness? Use examples from the story and explain your point.
6. Why does Connie go with Arnold and Ellie? Why can't she resist him? Is she flawed in some way? Is it her own fault, or is Oates critiquing society for not giving Connie the tools to protect herself?
7. This story is laced with allusions or references to folktales and fairy tales. Arnold’s “coach,” for instance, has a pumpkin on it. He has big teeth (like a big bad wolf, perhaps?). Find other examples of allusions to fairytales. Fairy tales are traditionally used to “show [children] that people face adversity, but, if they believe in themselves, they can overcome obstacles.” Connie surely faces adversity, but does she overcome it in the end? Does this have the true fairy tale ending in the darkest of ways?

Fairfax County Virginia Library. “The Importance of Fairy Tales to Preschool Development.” *Branch Out*. Accessed Jan. 16, 2023, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branch-out/importance-fairy-tales-preschool-development#:~:text=Aid%20in%20emotional%20resilience%20by,anxieties%20in%20a%20fantastical%20setting.>
8. 10. Oates has written that at the end of the story, Connie is a hero. Why would Oates say this? Does this change the nature of the ending or the meaning of the story itself?

<p>Your answer to the question you're using from the handout. Write it out in a clear and complete sentence that clearly relates to the question. Include the author's name and the story's title.</p>		
<p>Quote or moment which supports your answer. Write it out in a sentence and cite correctly.</p>	<p>How that supports your thesis idea. Explain in how this connects to your main point in a sentence or two.</p>	
<p>Quote or moment which supports your answer. Write it out in a sentence and cite correctly.</p>	<p>How that supports your thesis idea. Explain in how this connects to your main point in a sentence or two.</p>	
<p>Quote or moment which supports your answer. Write it out in a sentence and cite correctly.</p>	<p>How that supports your thesis idea. Explain in how this connects to your main point in a sentence or two.</p>	
<p>Concluding ideas: One or two sentence summary of your points, and then discussion of what this shows about the specific question, element you looked at, or what it shows about the human experience.</p>		