

1. Why does O'Connor begin and end the story with Mrs. Freeman? What qualities does she share with the other two women in the story, Mrs. Hopewell and her daughter, Joy-Hulga? Why can't the three women at all see though "Manley Pointer"? How does the appellation (title) of "Good Country People" relate Mrs. Freeman to "Manley Pointer"?
  2. Do you feel that Mrs. Hopewell's or her daughter's sensibility is closer to your own? Why does O'Connor make Mrs. Hopewell's angle of vision the dominating one for the first third of the story before it's lateralised to Joy? What vices (depravities) does Mrs. Hopewell embody?
  3. What vices does Joy-Hulga embody? In particular, in what way is she guilty of idolatry? How are we to regard her different pronouncements upon nothingness, the way she dresses and speaks? O'Connor has argued that she often employs violence in her stories because God sometimes needs to use violence to make us accessible to grace. Could this be happening in the story?
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