

Use textual evidence to support your answers! Also, do not forget to look at HOW O'Connor is writing and APPRECIATE her writing.

1. O'Connor said she wrote her short stories as parables. In what way is two of her stories a "parable" of grace, or of redemption? In what way do these stories show the "potential workings of salvation"?
2. O'Connor also said, "Often God uses violence to break down a person to be able to receive the grace of God." How does this observation about "violence" aptly "sum up" one of O'Connor's stories?
3. How important is a mother's presence in two of O'Connor's stories?
4. O'Connor uses the weather as an indicator of the characters' moods and intentions; choose one story where this is true.
5. Explain how the symbols of the sky and sun represents an openness to faith in Christ in two of the stories.
6. Choose an example of a character whose glorification of a past time is a major identifying factor. Explain how this preoccupation affects the action of the story.
7. Many characters in O'Connor's stories are disgusted with the ways of the world. Find three characters in her stories that this rings true in his/her characterization.
8. Many of Flannery O'Connor's protagonists are deformed or suffer from disabilities. Choose one of the characters and describe how he or she becomes defined by the deformity or disability.
9. How true is the following quote in O'Connor's short stories? "A story is a way to say something that can't be said any other way, and it takes every word in the story to say what the meaning is" (O'Connor).
10. In looking at the O'Connor's short stories, through the lens of the "journey" Mr. Head travels in "The Artificial N-Word" (morality -> lost -> sinner -> mercy); how does O'Connor create this journey in each story?