

With your partner, discuss and take notes for the following questions. Make sure your notes are organized, easy to read, and labeled clearly in your Homework Packet. Depending on time, I will stamp these at the end of class or first thing tomorrow morning.

1. Some literary analysts claim that O'Connor parallels some aspects of Alighieri's, *Dante's Inferno* with her "The Artificial N-Word" short story. To what extent is Mr. Head a representation of the wise mentor and the different portions of the journey to and in Atlanta the different levels in the epic poem?
2. How does this short story represent the characteristics of Southern Gothic Literature?
3. From what we know about O'Connor's "trademark" writing style, to what extent does this story illustrate her writing characteristics?
4. Comparing this story to one of O'Connor's other short stories, which one "embodies" the following quote: "All human nature vigorously resists grace because grace changes us and the change is painful"?
5. In her work *Wise Blood*, O'Connor states, "Where you come from is gone, where you thought you were going to never was there, and where you are is no good unless you can get away from it." To what extent is this true for any of our characters, or the story itself, from "The Artificial N-Word"?
6. To what extent is the following true in "The Artificial N-Word"?
  - a. "Racism: racists, who are suffering from false pride, use "difference" to claim superiority" (O'Connor).

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