

Prompt: Use this forum to post your thesis ideas for your first paper, which is due at the end of this week. If you post a rough thesis statement and some comment about the main points you'd like to make, your peers will be able to give constructive feedback. Generally, the more developed your thinking is, the more constructive the feedback will be. It is very difficult to give feedback to a few scattered notes.

Thesis for Paper One

I've decided to build upon my response to the second writing prompt "The Role of the Complex Antagonist", except approach it from the opposite perspective: write about the complex protagonist. In Joyce Carol Oates's "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" the character Connie is by default designated the role as the short story's protagonist. However, I will be discussing how it is probably more appropriate to consider her as a second antagonist, in that she has in many ways invited the trouble she eventually falls into with Arnold Friend.

I plan to essentially detail the ways in which Connie has unconsciously contributed to the frightening and terrible experience that leaves her powerless and completely vulnerable. Of course, Arnold Friend is still going to be the "bad guy", but I intend to show how Connie is not the "good guy", and that this particular role is entirely absent from the story.

Re: thesis (by Ricardo Caballero)

they are placed on either side of the spectrum of 'good' and 'bad' yet edge closer to each others respective placement by the antagonist being more principled, and the grandmother being a deceptive personally motivated person, even though it was set up for her to be the protagonist (and therefore have sympathetic feelings for automatically).

This sounds like a good topic for an essay and I don't think that you will have any problems coming up with ways to discuss Flannery O'Connor's unique application of the roles of protagonist and antagonist. The final part of the short story where the grandmother and the Misfit are talking together should be rich with content to support your thesis—filling up two or three pages should be no sweat. (In fact, I noticed your rough draft is already at four pages, although I have to admit that I only read your introductory paragraph. It is looking good but is probably too wordy in its present state.) The meeting of these two characters also allows for many different interpretations of what the story is about, which is a point that you might be able to work into your paper so that you don't have to limit it to only one or two.

Re:

Quote

Response