Where are you going, where have you been?

Questions

1. Oates has called this story a “realistic allegory.” What are the allegorical elements in this story?
2. Describe the characterization of Connie. Is she a typical teenage girl of her time and place? What techniques does Oates employ to make her an individual, three-dimensional character?
3. Why is Connie’s sister June included in the story? How does her characterization serve to highlight Connie’s own?
4. How do the descriptions of Arnold Friend—his face, his clothing, his dialogue, have symbolic meaning? How is his name symbolic?
5. Discuss the symbolic importance of music in the story. Why is music so important to Connie and to the story as a whole?
6. What is the significance of the title? Does it point to an allegorical interpretation?
7. Describe the ways in which the story generates suspense. At which points is an increase of suspense particularly noticeable?
8. Why does Connie agree to go with Arnold Friend? Is she motivated by altruism and a love for her family, or by simple fear and hysteria? What is her ultimate fate?
9. What do you think is the larger theme of this story? How is this more than a story about a scared girl being terrorized by a creepy dude?

Where are you going, where have you been?

Questions

1. Oates has called this story a “realistic allegory.” What are the allegorical elements in this story?
2. Describe the characterization of Connie. Is she a typical teenage girl of her time and place? What techniques does Oates employ to make her an individual, three-dimensional character?
3. Why is Connie’s sister June included in the story? How does her characterization serve to highlight Connie’s own?
4. How do the descriptions of Arnold Friend—his face, his clothing, his dialogue, have symbolic meaning? How is his name symbolic?
5. Discuss the symbolic importance of music in the story. Why is music so important to Connie and to the story as a whole?
6. What is the significance of the title? Does it point to an allegorical interpretation?
7. Describe the ways in which the story generates suspense. At which points is an increase of suspense particularly noticeable?
8. Why does Connie agree to go with Arnold Friend? Is she motivated by altruism and a love for her family, or by simple fear and hysteria? What is her ultimate fate?
9. What do you think is the larger theme of this story? How is this more than a story about a scared girl being terrorized by a creepy dude?

Where are you going, where have you been?

Questions

1. Oates has called this story a “realistic allegory.” What are the allegorical elements in this story?
2. Describe the characterization of Connie. Is she a typical teenage girl of her time and place? What techniques does Oates employ to make her an individual, three-dimensional character?
3. Why is Connie’s sister June included in the story? How does her characterization serve to highlight Connie’s own?
4. How do the descriptions of Arnold Friend—his face, his clothing, his dialogue, have symbolic meaning? How is his name symbolic?
5. Discuss the symbolic importance of music in the story. Why is music so important to Connie and to the story as a whole?
6. What is the significance of the title? Does it point to an allegorical interpretation?
7. Describe the ways in which the story generates suspense. At which points is an increase of suspense particularly noticeable?
8. Why does Connie agree to go with Arnold Friend? Is she motivated by altruism and a love for her family, or by simple fear and hysteria? What is her ultimate fate?
9. What do you think is the larger theme of this story? How is this more than a story about a scared girl being terrorized by a creepy dude?