Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?

By Joyce Carol Oates

Pre-reading


Complete the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bewilderment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>anxious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>horror</td>
<td>shock</td>
<td>exasperated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>worry</td>
<td>annoy</td>
<td>frightened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>panic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While-reading

COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1g List the information we get about Connie when she is at home and when she is with her friends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At home</th>
<th>With her friends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Station learning (p. 165, l. 1 - p. 171, l. 33).

Station instructions:

Introductory task: In pairs prepare cards for a memory game (Pelmanism). The teacher distributes a word from the list below to each pair. Each pair then writes two cards: on one card you write the word from the list that you are responsible for, on the other you write the translation and a short sentence where the word is used.

- sullen
- shaggy
- shabby
- convertible
- jalopy
- wig
- sideburns
- smirk
- fidget
- reluctant
- dawdle
- amiable
- slippery
- incredulous
- blur
- exasperated
- reassure
- perpetual

Work in groups of 4-6 and spend eight minutes at each station. You then have two minutes to move to the next station.

Station 1
Memory game: Spread all of the cards on a table and take turns turning two cards over. You get points when you find a matching pair.

Station 2
Make a poster that tells the public that Arnold Friend is wanted. It must include a drawing and a description.

Station 3
Account for the development in Connie’s feelings. Draw a line and place the different stages on it as well as a comment on what made Connie feel that way. Find examples from the text to substantiate your comments and add the references on your line.

Station 4
How do we learn that Arnold Friend is dangerous? Account for the development in his behaviour. Also comment on p. 167, lines 28-29 “sniffing as if … all a joke.”

Station 5
a. What role does music play? Find examples in the text.
b. Describe the car. What is the significance of the words painted on the side?

Station 6
Dramatize p. 162, l. 27 - p. 64, l. 11.
LEARNING CHECK

1. Vocabulary.
   Translate the following words into Danish:

   afraid  terrified  panic-stricken  scared  worried  petrified  anxious  uneasy  horrified

2. Say It!

   In groups of three: The first student names a square – for example B2 – and the second student in the group has to perform the task. Continue until all the tasks have been performed. When you are given a task, talk for at least one minute. If the student who has to perform the task needs help, he or she can ask the other students for help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. You are Connie. How would you characterize your relationship with your family?</td>
<td>1. You are Arnold Friend. Tell a psychiatrist how you made Connie go with you and what you did to her.</td>
<td>1. You are Connie. Explain why you do what Arnold Friend tells you to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. You are Ellie. Tell your lawyer what happened.</td>
<td>2. You are Connie. How do you feel about boys? And how do you feel when you see Arnold Friend’s car?</td>
<td>2. You are June. Tell a reporter about your sister.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. You are the mother. What is your daughter like?</td>
<td>3. You are Arnold Friend. Explain why you pretend to be 18 and dress the way you do.</td>
<td>3. You are the father. What is your role in the family?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TEXT-RELATED ASSIGNMENTS

1. Written assignment: continuation of the story.
Write a continuation of the story – what happens next? Use 50 words.

2. Written assignment – newspaper article
The Sun www.thesun.co.uk/, for example, is a tabloid newspaper which often presents light and popular news stories in a condensed and sensational form.
Write an article for a tabloid paper describing the situation the following day. Use about 500 words.
Choose a catchy headline followed by a brief introduction to create curiosity in the reader. The body of your article must include information about the facts of the case. Try to end with an interesting point that will tempt readers to buy tomorrow’s paper.

WIDER CONTEXTS

1. Other media: newspaper article as inspiration for the story.

a) Read the article about the young man who inspired Joyce Carol Oates to write Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been? http://articles.nydailynews.com/2009-12-20/news/17941422_1_pied-piper-french-killings
b) What is it about the case that you think may have inspired her? Comment on the style. Does this information add to your understanding of the text?

GLOSSARY

pied piper    rottedefængel
pipsqueak     lille skvat
fixture       fast inventar
sleazy        snusket
conceal       skjule
pancake makeup makeup consisting of a solid layer of compressed powder, used in the theatre
putty         kit
emancipate    frigøre
epicureal     nydelsessyg
rant          svada
prompt        tilskynde, få til at
sobriquet     tilnavn

Compare the newspaper article with the short story. What does Joyce Carol Oates achieve when she turns an article like that into a work of fiction?
2. Sociological context: comparison. Is Arnold Friend “bad or mad”? Check the article, p. 137 and discuss.

3. “Cracking the secret code”.
The numbers 33, 19 and 17 which are written on Arnold Friend’s car (p. 167, l. 1) have been interpreted in various ways.

a) The sum of the numbers 69 are an indication of his sexual deviancy underlining his intention to rape and murder Connie.

b) The numbers are a biblical reference to the thirty-third book of the Old Testament Judges 19:17 where it says

“And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, ”Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou?”

Furthermore, the reference concerns a man who returns home with his concubine. In this interpretation Connie would therefore be seen as the concubine of the devil.

c) The missing number in the 17, 19 sequence is 18. The 18th letter in the alphabet is “r” and if you remove the “r” from Arnold Friend’s name it becomes Fiend. The oldest fiend through time has been the devil, and a myth states that the devil is never allowed to enter a house uninvited which would explain why Arnold doesn’t enter Connie’s house.

Also it is believed that the devil has hooves and not feet which could explain why Arnold seems to have some problems with his shoes.

Which of the three interpretations do you agree with most? Why? Try to find other ways to interpret the numbers.

4. Other media: Bob Dylan’s “A Hard Rain’s Gonna Fall”.
Joyce Carol Oates has dedicated the short story to Bob Dylan. Find and read “A Hard Rain’s Gonna Fall” on the internet and listen to the song on YouTube.

Matrix groups: Work in five groups so that each group is responsible for one stanza. Analyse your stanza by using the tools section pp. 326. Form new groups with a member from each of the original groups. Present your answers to the new group. Then discuss how Dylan’s song and Oates’ story can be compared – also consider the title of the short story.

Other Bob Dylan songs which may have inspired Joyce Carol Oates are “It’s All Over Now”, “Baby Blue” and “Subterranean Homesick Blues”. Listen to the songs, read the lyrics and discuss what elements in the songs may have inspired the author.