

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN

by K K

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Where Have You Been

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Q1.

In the story “Where Have You Been?” the character Connie represents the superficial, youthful, and self-centered beautiful teenage girl who demonstrates romantic allusions. She is a fusion of materialism and also a symbol of the duality world in her. She represents the reality that of a shift from home to a diverse world. On the other hand, June is Connie’s boring sister. Unlike Connie, June is less charming but also represents womanhood since she is a professional woman. June spends most of her time with female friends, hence she represents a sexless and joyless existence, a kind of life which Connie does not aspire to live, (Gale, 2016).

Q2.

I think Arnold is an extremely evil character. This is because he pretends to be a young boy in his efforts to kidnap, sexually abuse, and kill Connie. Arnold uses the advantage ¹ of Connie’s love for music to pretend to be a loving suitor and also speaks to her in a lilting voice to divert her from the horror of his falling out. He also applies makeup to appear taller and younger. He is a manipulative and deceptive character who knows what the family of Connie is going through but still comes into her house to abduct rape and murder Connie. These evil actions demonstrate that Arnold is a demonic character, (Kuncaite and Hearst, 2017).

Q3.

In the last scene ² of the story, Connie’s downfall is caused by her vanity. She is flattered by the attention of Arnold Friend and allows him to pull her into a conversation that proves to be her downfall. Connie also demonstrates a tendency of drifting off and being in the state of confusion in most cases, something which might have contributed to her being easily pulled down by Arnold

Friend. Connie's sexual desires as demonstrated in her romantic desire and naïve behavior yet she is still a child lead into her encounter with Arnold who brings her down, (Oates and Wolff, 2013).

Q4.

The title of Joyce Carol Oates's narrative "Where Have You Been?" presents the stressed relationship between Connie and her father and mother, who seem to be nagging about Connie's actions ³ but do not question her about the actions she takes. Connie's mother allows her to go out without asking for permission and assumes that she will behave well as her elder sister June. Similarly, Connie's father picks her up but never questions where she has been. The title represents a criticism of the negligence and lack of concern of Connie's parents on where she is going or where she has been, (Gale, 2016).

Reference

Oates, J. C., & Wolff, T. (2013). *Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?*. Difusión, Centro de Investigación y Publicaciones de Idiomas.

Gale, C. L. (2016). *A Study Guide for Joyce Carol Oates's "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"*. Gale Cengage Learning.

Kuncaite, D., & Hearst, E. (2017). *Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?*.

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