

AP English Literature: Faces of the Devil Notetaker & Discussion Guide
O'Connor, Joyce, and Oates

O'Connor: Trickster Lucifer Archetype

1. How does Trickster-Lucifer characters impact the lives of others in the O'Connor stories?
2. Find an example of O'Connor's blend of comedy and corruption in the story?
3. The Devil and the Trickster are not the same thing. How would you differentiate the Trickster?
4. What do the Trickster's share in terms of life style?
5. What is ironic each time this Father of Lies is victorious?
6. How does each of the figures disorient others?
7. How does each confound and clarify?
8. What does each character associated most closely with the trickster give up to glimpse positive values.
9. Where do the spiritual blind spots lie within other characters in the three stories?

Joyce: A Different Face

1. How does Joyce characterize God?
2. Why does God cast the Devil from Paradise?
3. How does Stephen align himself with the Devil?
4. What are some adjectives that could be used to describe both Stephen and the Devil?
5. What is the role of the Devil in POA?
6. Does Joyce give the Devil a role in the initiation of Stephen's sinful life with the prostitutes?
7. In saying that he will not serve, what aspects of allusion do you believe Stephen is more or less borrowing from the Devil.
8. Would an incident with the Trickster-Lucifer figure of O'Connor's fiction impact Stephen?

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Oates and the Devil

1. What are the physical characteristics of Arnold Friend?
2. What are some characteristics that people typically associate with Satan?
3. Critics have suggested that Arnold Friend represents the Devil. What widely held characteristics of Satan does he possess?
4. What are some characteristics Friend shares with the versions presented by the other two authors?
5. How does the figure compare and contrast in terms of his function in the work? In answering this, think about Connie?
6. What roles does Connie play in the story?
7. What elements of the story heighten the violence?
8. What elements universalize the story?
9. How does the point of view enhance the terror?
10. Can you explain how the structure of the story can be divided into three parts?
11. What do you make of the comment “none of them bothered to go to church”?
12. What factors made Connie vulnerable?
13. What is her final act of heroism?