

AP Literature Flannery O'Connor Journals

“Good Country People” “A Good Man is Hard to Find” “A Late Encounter with the Enemy”

**Journal 15 points - 5 per story:** *Pick a topic or two for each story and have at it!*

**Evaluate**

Identify beliefs and values. Use specific detail to explain how they are portrayed.

Do you support or refute these values? Explain.

Define themes or ideas as she presents them. For example if courage is an issue, how does the work define it? What are the characteristics of courage?

**Respond**

Make connections between this work and your personal experience.

Imagine - Use some creativity

**Apply** one or more of the following quotes to the stories.

**O'Connor said:**

*Much of my fiction takes its character from a reasonable use of the unreasonable. Belief, in my own case anyway, is the engine that makes perception operate.*

*Violence is a force that can be used for good or evil... the man in the violent situation reveals those qualities least dispensable in his personality; those qualities which he will have to take to eternity...*

*Fiction is an art that calls for the strictest attention to the real...*

*When you can state the theme of a story, when you can separate it from the story itself, then you can be sure the story is not a very good one... You tell a story because a statement would be inadequate.*

**Critics said:**

*Her stories are "grotesque."*

*Her symbols are "ominous."*

*The essence of O'Connor's vision is that she sees terror as purification. (Moments of sanctifying grace!)*

*Her stories are characterized by "claustrophobic violence."*

*Flannery O'Connor has a deep sense of the Devil or of the multiplicity of devils, though not in any conventional religious sense. For her the devils are forces which appear in living shape...For her, the role of the diabolic is to destroy pride in a misconceived virtue.*

*She has a remarkable ear for the talk of the poor whites, for the received ideas of the educated.*