

Virginia Woolf

“A Haunted House”

1. Who is the “you” in this sentence?
2. What is the main type of conflict in the story?
3. Is the narrative voice the author’s own voice?
4. What is Woolf’s strategy utilizing the word “Haunted” in the title?
5. What is Woolf’s strategy placing the ghost-couple’s background information within the exact middle paragraph of the story?
6. What is the resolution to his story?
7. Locate the narrator’s epiphany moment. What transformation or resolution is shown through her sudden insight?

Ray Bradbury

“I See You Never”

1. Mrs. O’Brian is the central character. Can she be considered an anti-hero?
2. What type of conflict is used in this story? What is the form of disconnect?
3. Map out the sequence of the story. What relevance plays in the placement of the main scene at the back porch door?
4. Where is Mrs. O’Brian’s epiphany? Why would Bradbury locate this moment in this particular room, in this manner?
5. Compare Mrs. O’Brian’s epiphany with Woolf’s unnamed narrator. In what manner are two scenes similar?
6. At the story’s conclusion, is there a stronger sense of resolution or of a tragedy?

James Joyce

“Araby”

1. Which form of narration is James Joyce using in this story?
2. Do you trust the narrator’s voice?
3. Read ¶s 1,2,3: What is revealed about the narrator in these passages?
How does his descriptions of the house, the street and the weather reflect on his attitude? What does the setting reveal about the emotional life of the character?
4. What symbolism/foreshadowing can be gathered regarding the priest in ¶ 2?
What do these references add to the story?
5. What colors predominate the scene? What is important about the season?
What foreshadowing can be derived from this?
6. What other foreshadowing techniques are in this story?
7. How are the boys described in ¶ 3?
8. Why is Mangan’s sister left un-named?
What is relevant regarding her description?
9. Why is she left in such a nondescript manner?
10. In what manner does this paragraph echo the traditional stories of a hero?
What is significant regarding the name Araby in the title?
11. Why do you think the narrator’s parents never appear in the story?
What happens in these remaining paragraphs? Why is he bitter at himself?

discussion

Ursula K. LeGuin

“The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas”

1. Which form of narration is Ursula LeGuin using in this story?
2. Do you trust the narrator’s voice?
3. Read paragraph 1: How does her descriptions of the utopia society— based on weather, activities, and setting— reflect her attitude? What does the setting reveal about the emotional life of the character?
4. What symbolism/foreshadowing can be gathered in this passage? What do these references add to the story?
5. What colors predominate the scene? What is important about the season? What foreshadowing can be derived from this?
6. In ¶ 3 the narrator states: “But we do not say the words of cheer much anymore. All smiles have become archaic.” Who are the “we”?
7. She continues, “I wish I could convince you. Omelas sounds in my words like a city in a fairy tale, long ago and away, once upon a time. Perhaps it would be best if you imagined it as your own fancy bids, assuming it will rise to the occasion, for certainly I cannot suit you all... I fear Omelas so far strikes some of you as goody-goody. Smiles, bells, parades, horses, bleh. If so, please add an orgy. If an orgy would help, don’t hesitate.”
Why does the narrator allow the reader to participate and re-invent the concept of Omelas?
8. Compare the second half of the parable with the first. How do the words, phrases, and atmosphere contrast with the opening paragraphs? What effect does this have on the story’s theme?
9. What does the child’s presence represent?
10. What is the resolution?
11. Why does the title concentrate on those who walk away?