

“Going Places” by A.R. Barton

TEXTUAL QUESTION ANSWERS

(From Flamingo Textbook)

Understanding the Text

1. Where was it most likely that the two girls would find work after school?

Answer: It was most likely that the two girls, Sophie and Jansie, would find work in a biscuit factory after leaving school, as was common for girls from their socio-economic background.

2. What were the options that Sophie was dreaming of? Why does Jansie discourage her?

Answer: Sophie dreamt of owning a boutique, becoming an actress, or becoming a fashion designer. Jansie discouraged her because she knew that their financial background wouldn't support such dreams and that such ambitions were unrealistic.

3. Why did Sophie wriggle when Geoff told her father that she had met Danny Casey?

Answer: Sophie wriggled because she had lied about meeting the footballer Danny Casey. She was afraid her lie would be exposed, especially if her father started questioning or doubting her story.

4. Does Geoff believe what Sophie says about her meeting with Danny Casey?

Answer: Geoff is doubtful but not openly disbelieving. He listens quietly and with interest, but he doesn't question Sophie much. His silence reflects his uncertainty about the truth.

5. Does her father believe her story?

Answer: No, Sophie's father clearly doesn't believe her story. He dismisses it as one of her wild fantasies and even mocks the idea of Danny Casey dating a girl like Sophie.

6. How does Sophie include her brother Geoff in her fantasy of future?

Answer: Sophie admires Geoff and wants to be a part of his world. She shares her imaginary meeting with Danny Casey with him, hoping he will believe and support her. She wishes to travel to exotic places with him and be included in his adult world.

7. Which country did Danny Casey play for?

Answer: Danny Casey was an Irish footballer; he played for Ireland.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS (SHORT & LONG ANSWERS)

◆ **Short Answer Questions (30–50 words)**

1. Who is Sophie? What are her dreams?

Answer: Sophie is a teenage girl from a lower-middle-class family. She dreams of becoming rich and famous—owning a boutique, becoming an actress or fashion designer—even though her reality is far from her fantasies.

2. Why is Jansie considered more practical than Sophie?

Answer: Jansie is aware of their financial limitations and knows they are likely to work in a factory. She doesn't believe in chasing unrealistic dreams and tries to keep Sophie grounded.

3. What was Sophie's imaginary story about Danny Casey?

Answer: Sophie claimed that she met Danny Casey, the Irish football star, at the arcade, talked to him, and that he had agreed to meet her again next week. However, it was all her imagination.

4. What role does Geoff play in Sophie's life?

Answer: Geoff is Sophie's elder brother. She admires him, shares her dreams with him, and longs to be part of his adult world. She sees him as someone living a more exciting and open life.

5. What is Sophie's reaction when her father mocks her story about Danny Casey?

Answer: Sophie feels uncomfortable and anxious. She wriggles and becomes silent, indicating her fear that her lie might be exposed and that she might be laughed at.

6. Why does Sophie go to the canal bank?

Answer: Sophie goes to the canal bank to keep her imaginary date with Danny Casey. Even though she knows deep down that it's unlikely he will come, she still clings to her fantasy.

7. How does Sophie's family react to her claim of meeting Danny Casey?

Answer: Her father dismisses it as a fantasy and mocks her. Geoff listens but doesn't seem convinced. The rest of the family is indifferent or disbelieving.

8. What does Sophie's fantasy world reveal about her personality?

Answer: Sophie's fantasy world shows that she is imaginative, ambitious, and dissatisfied with her current life. She dreams big but is disconnected from the harsh realities of her socio-economic background.

9. Why does Sophie admire Geoff?

Answer: Geoff is quiet and mature. Sophie feels he has access to an exciting world of freedom and mystery that she yearns to be a part of. She envies his independence and adult experiences.

10. What is the theme of "Going Places"?

Answer: The story explores themes of adolescence, fantasy vs. reality, class divide, and the desire for upward mobility. It reflects how dreams can become a way to escape the harshness of real life.

◆ **Long Answer Questions (120–150 words)**

11. What is the significance of the title “Going Places”?

Answer: The title symbolizes the dreams and aspirations of young people like Sophie who want to escape their mundane lives and achieve something extraordinary. Sophie wants to "go places" in life—literally and figuratively—by becoming rich and famous. However, her dreams are disconnected from reality. The title reflects both ambition and the emotional journey of youth navigating between dreams and limitations.

12. How does Sophie’s family background contrast with her aspirations?

Answer: Sophie comes from a working-class family. Her father is a laborer, and she is expected to work in a factory after school. Despite this, she dreams of owning a boutique or becoming a celebrity. Her aspirations are not supported by her background, making her fantasies unrealistic and highlighting the gap between her dreams and her social reality.

13. Compare the characters of Sophie and Jansie.

Answer: Sophie is dreamy, imaginative, and disconnected from reality. She weaves fantasies about success and fame. In contrast, Jansie is practical, grounded, and realistic. She is aware of their economic limitations and tries to bring Sophie back to reality. While Sophie escapes into imagination, Jansie faces life as it is.

14. Why does Sophie cling so tightly to her fantasy about meeting Danny Casey?

Answer: Sophie clings to the fantasy because it provides an escape from her dull life. Danny Casey represents glamour and success. Imagining a romantic link with a famous footballer makes her feel special and hopeful. Her fantasy is a way to cope with the disappointment of her everyday life.

15. What role does Geoff play in shaping Sophie’s dreams?

Answer: Geoff is a symbol of the wider world that Sophie yearns to

be a part of. Though he doesn't encourage her fantasies, his quiet demeanor and experiences outside their home intrigue Sophie. She feels he understands her more than others and wants him to accept and validate her dreams.

16. Why is Sophie disappointed at the end of the story?

Answer: Sophie is disappointed because Danny Casey never comes to meet her at the canal. Her fantasy is shattered, and she is forced to confront the truth that her dream was never real. Her disappointment reflects the pain of disillusionment.

17. Describe Sophie's visit to the arcade and the imaginary meeting.

Answer: Sophie imagines meeting Danny Casey at the arcade. She says he came alone, was shy, and they talked. She even claims he agreed to meet her again. The entire meeting is a figment of her imagination, showing her desire for excitement and attention.

18. What does the story reveal about adolescent psychology?

Answer: The story reveals that adolescents often dream of a better future, seek admiration, and want to escape dull realities. They tend to build idealized versions of their lives. Sophie's fantasies are typical of adolescence—full of hope but often disconnected from practical possibilities.

19. How does the story reflect the theme of class difference?

Answer: Sophie's dreams are limited by her working-class status. While she dreams of owning boutiques or dating celebrities, her background offers little support. The contrast between her life and her aspirations highlights the restrictions imposed by class differences in society.

20. What is your impression of Sophie by the end of the story?

Answer: By the end, Sophie appears vulnerable and emotionally overwhelmed. Her deep disappointment shows how much she had invested in her fantasy. Though her dreams are unrealistic, her yearning for a better life makes her a sympathetic character.

