GOING PLACES by A. R. Barton

Short Answer Questions. 30-40 words.

1. Do you think Jansie was more sensible than Sophie?
2. What options did Sophie have regarding her career? Why did Jansie discourage her?
3. What picture of the family does the narrator portray through the description of Sophie’s mother?
4. How was Geoff different than Sophie?
5. Why does Sophie share her dream of meeting Danny Casey with Geoff only?
6. Why did Sophie discourage Geoff from sharing her secret with anyone?
7. How did Sophie “meet” Danny Casey? How does Sophie describe him?
8. “They made their weekly pilgrimage”. What does ‘weekly pilgrimage’ refer to? Why is it called a pilgrimage?
9. What excuse does Sophie give for Danny Casey not being able to sign the autograph?
10. Did Sophie meet Danny Casey the second time? Has she ever seen him in person?
11. Why was Sophie happy to see her father’s bicycle outside the pub?

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Long Answer Questions. 120-150 words.

1. Though brought up in the same family, Geoff and Sophie were very different. Elaborate.
2. Teenage fantasy, if not checked in time, leads to emotional setback. Substantiate.
3. Who was Danny Casey? How was he adored by Sophie’s family?

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ANSWER KEY

Short Answers.

1. Yes, Jansie was more sensible than Sophie as she had accepted the reality and the poor economic condition of her family. She had agreed to work for the biscuit factory while Sophie dreamt about careers which were beyond her reach. Moreover, she asked Sophie to be sensible and accept her reality too.
2. Sophie dreamt of owning a boutique, of being a manager or become an actress or a fashion designer and own a boutique on the side. Jansie discouraged her as she knew the financial and social condition of her friend and knew that the dreams she had were far beyond reality.
3. The narrator portrays Sophie’s mother as a hard working lady. She was burdened by the financial constraints. She lived in a small room with her family, a place which was used for cooking as well as laundry. The continuous household chores had left her back crooked. When the entire family went to watch matches, she stayed at home. She didn’t have any source of entertainment.
4. Geoff was different from Sophie as accepting the reality, he had become an apprentice mechanic. He had a life of his own in which he did not allow any of his family members. However, Sophie suspected that he had some special people in his life and wished to meet them. He was an introvert and his silence made Sophie feel jealous. She had a fascination for his life because it was unknown to her.
5. Sophie shared her dream of meeting Danny Casey with Geoff only because she wished to get his approval and attention. She felt that it was Geoff’s stuff. He was the first one to share her secrets with. She believed that if she shared all her secrets with him, she would also become a part of his interesting life.
6. Sophie discouraged Geoff from sharing her secret with anyone as she was cared of her father getting to know. She knew he would never believe her. When she got to know that Geoff has shared her secret with Jansie’s brother Frank, she disliked it as it wasn’t a Jansie kind of thing at all. It was in Jansie’s character to tell things to the entire neighbourhood.
7. Sophie imagined meeting Danny Casey in the shopping arcade. She was looking at clothes in Royce’s window when Danny Casey came and stood beside her. She told Geoff that he had green and gentle eyes and he wasn’t very tall. She also informed him that he didn’t have many girlfriends. She also stated that Casey had expressed interest in meeting her next week.
8. “Weekly pilgrimage’ refers to the football match of United. It was called a pilgrimage as the entire family were great fans of Danny Casey and they would go to watch his match every Saturday. They attended United matches like a place of worship every week.
9. When Sophie imagined meeting Danny Casey at the arcade but was unable to get an autograph from him, she made an excuse that neither of them had a pen to sign at that time.
10. No, Sophie never met Danny Casey in person. She only imagined it. The only time saw him in person was at the football matches. For the second “meeting” she went near the canal and sat on the wooden bench imagining and seeing Casey some out of the shadows. She waited there, wishing Danny would come but he didn’t turn up. She was heartbroken.
11. Sophie had imagined meeting Danny Casey near the canal. She was heartbroken to accept the reality. She didn’t wish to see Geoff’s disappointed face when she told him that Danny hadn’t come. She was happy to see her father’s bicycle outside the pub because her father would not be home when she got there with her disappointment.

Long Answers.

1. Though brought up in the same family, Geoff and Sophie were different. Sophie was a day dreamer. She was earmarked to work in the biscuit factory but she dreamt of owning a boutique, being a manager or becoming an actress or fashion designer and owning a boutique on the side. Sophie was an extrovert. She shared her dreams of her career with her friend Jansie and her meeting with Danny Casey with her brother Geoff. Geoff was different from Sophie as accepting the reality, he had become an apprentice mechanic. He had a life of his own in which he did not allow any of his family members. However, Sophie suspected that he had some special people in his life and wished to meet them. He was an introvert and his silence made Sophie feel jealous. She had a fascination for his life because it was unknown to her.
2. Sophie was a teenager who used to day dream. She was earmarked to work in the biscuit factory but she dreamt of owning a boutique, being a manager or becoming an actress or fashion designer and owning a boutique on the side. She even dreamt of meeting Danny Casey, a famous footballer she only saw in person on Saturdays at United matches that her family religiously attended. She elaborately made the details of the meeting citing a reason for not having his autograph and informed that she would be meeting him again. She even waited for him sitting alone on a bench and was heartbroken when he didn’t arrive, even though it was all in her head. This type of teenage fantasy if not kept in check can destroy the person. Just like Sophie demonstrates how far imagination can go, to the extent of making one feel bad for things that aren’t real, other teenager also involved with such obsessions may make up their minds about unrealistic things that need to be kept in check.
3. Danny Casey was an Irish football prodigy. He played for United and had won the hearts of his countless fans. Sophie’s family were great fans of his. Sophie’s father compared him with Tom Finney and wished that Casey would be as great as him someday. Geoff remarked that he was with the best team in his country. He hoped that Casey would prove an even better player than Finney. Geoff considered Casey the best. However, the father thought that he was too young. On Saturdays, Sophie’s family made their weekly pilgrimage to watch him play for United. Sophie adored Danny Casey and had a romantic fascination for him. She imagined meeting him, first in the shopping arcade and then near the canal. She was so fascinated by him that she waited for Casey at meeting that was never scheduled, imagining him arriving and was devastated when he didn’t show up.