Shivam Gupta

Ryan Page

ENL 3

3/5/18

1) How does each source contribute to your understanding of the story?

* The Charles Schmid story adds to Oates story as it provides a background about the cultural impact and the things that were going on in the youth of 60’s. The article is clearly reflected in the story as a Charles Schmid can be depicted as the Arnold. There are also similarities as Charles used to hangout near the highway and we see that with Arnold too. Another similarity is that when Charles goes to commit the murder Mary French is in the car listening to the radio. Same as Ellie when he stays in the car when Arnold leaves to meet Connie.
* The lyrics are represented in the story as they are present the same idea that is presented in the story and repeated by the character named Arnold. The song talks about a vagabond at the door and how “baby blue” must leave with this man. It can interpreted in the story that baby blue is Connie as suggested in the end by Arnold as he calls Connie “my sweet little blue-eyed girl” even though she had brown eyes. The theme of starting new is also in the song and the story as Connie is going to start a new life as suggested in the story by her not able to see here mother again and not being able to sleep in her bed again
* The death and maiden story reflects the two character around which Oates story revolves. Connie can be seen as a symbolism for a maiden a virgin girl who is beautiful and is trying to identify her own desires while not giving in to them. Arnold on the other hand can be seen as a representation of the devil as he is trying to tempt Connie to go for a ride which can be inferred as sexual desires. He is also in control of Connie by the end of the story suggesting that his power and forceful nature made Connie to give in.

2) In a couple of sentences each, construct a coherent reading of the story using each of these sources individually.

From the first source – Connie can be seen as representation of a victim of Charles Schmid while Arnold a depiction of Charles. It could be inferred that he saw Connie while he was on the highway dinner and then decided to pursue. He then uses his forceful nature to take advantage of Connie while taking his friend with him when he does this.

From the second source – In the song Connie can be the representation of baby blue who has to leave her place to start a new life with the vagabond. The vagabond can be depicted as Arnold in the story who wants to take Connie to this new place. This depiction suggests that Connie will not be able to return and has to take everything that she find important in her life.

From the third source – In this reading we see Connie as a maiden and Arnold as the devil who has come to take advantage of her innocence. Connie is depicted as beautiful and curious about her interactions with boys can is trying to understand how to reach and fulfil them. While Arnold comes to her door in the form of temptation who she gives in by the end of the story.

3) How are these readings different from each other?

The reading are different from each other as the fate of Connie’s character is different in almost each one of them. In the first one it can be assumed that Connie will die while in the other readings the fate of Connie is undetermined or in a sense the ending is open to different interpretations.

Another important thing to consider is the character of Arnold which changes with each interpretation of the reading in the first Arnold is a representation of Charles while in the other it can be the vagabond who is wandering and the devil who is trying to woo the maiden Connie.

4) Conversely, how do the sources possibly impede our reading of the story? For example, many critics write about "Where Are You Going" as though it were a fictionalized retelling of the Schmid case. If you read the story in this way, then there is no doubt as to how to understand the ending--the heroine is going to be murdered by Arnold. But this is significantly NOT in the story itself. What did you think was going on before you read about the historical serial killer?

During the primary reading I thought that Arnold was going to take advantage of Connie and abuse her. I did not think that she died in the original reading as she is able to have clear thoughts, however she is unable to make her own decisions which suggested that may be she was under Arnolds control which further leads me to believe that Arnold may have been a form or a temptation for Connie and that she finally gives in to and will find enjoyment in this new life.