

UNIT 7 The American Dream
Postwar Era 1945 to 1960

A SEEM School
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



Flannery O'Connor's
**THE LIFE YOU SAVE
MAY BE YOUR OWN**

**WITH
JIM SOTO**

SPEAK YOUR MIND

It is difficult to imagine a society functioning without any trust at all. Trust is a fundamental aspect of social interaction, and without it, many basic activities would become impossible. Trust is a crucial element of healthy relationships and successful interactions. However... trusting can be a very risky proposition. Strange people and sketchy characters make it so.

What qualities do you need to see in someone before you will trust him or her?
To what extent would you?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question.

SOUTHERN GOTHIC



This Flannery O'Connor's short story is a prime example of Southern Gothic literature, an extension of the Southern Renaissance movement. Set in rural Georgia, the story features characters that include a man with an amputated arm and a young woman who is deaf and mentally challenged. The story's main concern is the concept of good and evil, a common theme in O'Connor's works. A devout Catholic throughout her life, she believed in a spiritual center and an reception of divine grace in people's lives.



"The Life You Save" received critical acclaim when it was first published in 1953 in the Kenyon Review, a literary journal. The next year, it earned the O. Henry Award for Short Fiction.

LITERARY ELEMENTS

Additionally, O'Connor uses a technique known as Characterization, is the act of creating or describing a character. Indirect techniques include showing what characters say, do, or think and showing what other characters say or think about them. The direct technique involves describing a character's physical features and personality.



Dialect, is a version of a language spoken by the people of a particular place, time, or social group. A regional dialect is one spoken in a particular place. A social dialect is one spoken by a particular social group or class.





O'Connor is famous for populating her stories with bizarre characters. As you read, analyze the characterization techniques she uses to develop the characters in this story. Also analyze her use of dialect in creating characters. Write down specific examples of dialect in the story.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 561-571 of your book complete the following activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & COMPARE LITERATURE
 - **Characterization and Dialect** - Explain O'Connor's use of direct versus indirect characterization techniques. Which character does the reader know most about? Least about?
 - Identify several examples of dialect within the story. How does O'Connor use dialect to develop characters? What does the use of dialect reveal about the place, time, and social standing of the characters?



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