

## “Good Country People” Discussion Questions

Directions: In a group of no more than three, discuss the following questions. Refer to the story where necessary.

- 1.) Analyze the names of the characters – yes, phallic references are obvious.
- 2.) Describe the affective response of the reader at the end of the story.
- 3.) Describe the cognitive response of the reader at the end of the story.
- 4.) What comments does O’Connor make about Christians?
- 5.) What comments does she make about education?
- 6.) List the occurrences of hypocrisy that occur in the story.
- 7.) How does O’Connor create distance between the reader (you) and Joy/Hulga?
- 8.) Where does O’Connor create “thoughtful laughter”?
- 9.) What was Hulga’s plan for the picnic? What was Manley’s?
- 10.) Hulga wanted to turn Manley’s remorse into something wonderful. What does this say about her?
- 11.) Where is the irony in the story?
- 12.) Who in the story is “simple”?
- 13.) Where did you first begin to question Manley’s motives? Why there?
- 14.) Where is the grammatical evidence of “country people”? (Look in the dialogue).
- 15.) What did Hulga really believe about Christians?

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