

### Assignments

Week 2, beginning 8/25 /2008:

#### Tuesday:

- I've put your pictures on the web and will also hand them around to make sure I've spelled your names correctly and that I haven't – horror of horrors – given you a new name you didn't even know you had.
- Picking up from last week, we'll read and briefly analyze from the standpoint of story and plot Grace Paley's "Samuel" as well as a micro-story that's a surprise.
- We'll then discuss Chapter 2, relating its concepts of plot, character, setting, point of view, voice and style, and theme to the two stories we've read.
- With any time remaining, we'll discuss Joyce Carol Oates' "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" pages 404 to 416, which I asked you to read.
- Which reminds me: Maybe I'll also give you a short quiz on the reading. We'll see.

#### Homework due Thursday:

1. In your journals, use the ideas of Chapter 2 to explore "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" In particular address the following questions:
  - a. Describe the plot: exposition, conflict, complications, turning point (climax), declining action (anti-climax), resolution;
  - b. What is the POV in the story?
  - c. What is Oates's voice and style? How does she create these?
  - d. What is the theme?
2. Please make sure that when you're writing in your journal that you include the date of your entry as well as the nature of your entry so that it's easy for me to figure out what topic you're addressing.
3. Also in your journal, write a nano-story, no more than a hundred words, in which you emphasize plot points: exposition, conflict, complications, turning point (climax), declining action (anti-climax) and resolution.

#### Thursday:

- We'll complete our discussion of Oates's "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
- We'll also spend a bit more time on story themes, which can be harder to understand at times since irony often at the core of modern literature.

#### Homework due Next Tuesday:

1. Read Chapter 3 in *Literature and its Writers*, pages 19 to 25.
2. Read Chapter 26, "Developing Your Ideas in an Essay," pages 1743 to 1746.
3. And then read Eudora Welty's "A Worn Path," pages 564 to 571, using the ideas you've read about journal keeping to record in your journal your impressions to this story as you read.

