

Assignments

Week 8, beginning 10/6/2008:

Tuesday:

- Today we'll continue our discussion of O'Connor's stories, maybe finishing them, maybe not.
- Regardless, be prepared for a quiz on Chekhov and Oates on Thursday.
- And finish your rewrites, which are due on Thursday along with your journals, which I'll collect at the end of class.
- Which brings us to your next paper, a short paper no more than three pages, 750 words, in which, using plot, character, POV, setting and voice as a lens, you will compare and contrast the theme in two or more of these stories. In addition, I want you to use what the authors and others have to say about these stories: Flannery O'Connor, pages 667-674; Matthew C. Brennan, "Plotting Against Chekhov: Joyce Carol Oates and *The Lady with the Dog*," pages 661 to 663; and Anton Chekhov, 594-595.
- In thinking about your paper, please note the following:
 - a. While each of these stories is written in third-person, O'Connor's third-person is omniscient while Chekhov's and Oates's is limited-omniscient;
 - b. The center of gravity, to use Chekhov's term (594), is created by two characters, him and her, though O'Connor includes fairly round characters in the setting who help us understand character, e.g., Lucynell the mother, Hopewell and Freeman, and Bailey's family.
 - c. Examining the dynamics of, the evolution of the center of gravity of a story helps us understand the theme;
 - d. In the Flannery O'Connor stories one of the characters experiences a state of grace, a state in which the character seems to experience, if for only a fleeting moment, a divine state (673);
 - e. In the Chekhov and Oates stories the character we understand from a limited-omniscient POV is exploring his or her identity.
- Paper timeline: a draft for in-class review will be due on the first class after we've finished discussing the stories. The earliest would be next Tuesday, 10/14, but a better guess would be next Thursday, 10/16. Regardless, the second draft of the paper, which you will hand in with your first draft and review sheets, will be due on Tuesday, 10/21.

Homework due Thursday:

1. Finish your paper rewrite.
2. Make sure you've read both Anton Chekhov's "The Lady with the Pet Dog," pages 101 to 114, and Joyce Carol Oates's "The Lady with the Pet Dog," pages 390 to 404.
3. Also make sure that in your journals you've considered these stories' plot, character, POV, voice, setting and theme.

Thursday:

- Hand in your rewrite.
- At the end of class remember to hand in your journals.
- We'll continue our story and paper discussion.

Homework due Next Tuesday:

1. Decide on the two or more stories you're going to compare and contrast.
2. Create a table for each story of character attributes and theme.
3. Begin thinking about how you're going to structure your paper so that you can ask questions in class.

