

GOING PLACES by A.R.BARTON

GIST OF THE LESSON

- The lesson explores the theme of adolescent fantasies and hero worship.
- Sophie and Jansie are both in the last year of high school and both knew that they were destined to work in the biscuit factory as they belong to a working class family.
- Yet, Sophie, always dreams of big and beautiful things, glamour and glory.

- Her ambitions are not rooted in reality i.e., have no relation with the harsh realities of life.
- In contrast is Jansie, Sophie's friend, a realistic and practical girl.
- Sophie lives in male-dominated family where her mother was only a shadow. The men were football fans and the conversations around the dinner table were about Danny Casey, their Hero.
- Sophie wants some attention from her father and brother and telling them that she met Casey, was her way of drawing their attention towards her.
- But she carries her fantasies too far when she starts to live them.

SOLVED SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What does Sophie dream of doing after she passes out of school? Why do you call it a dream, and not a plan?

Sophie dreams of big and beautiful things, glamour and glory. She is not practical in her thinking and has no concrete plans to make her dreams real.

1. Do you think Sophie and Jansie are pole apart in their attitude to life?

Sophie was a dreamer unable to come in terms with the fact that she is year marked for the biscuit factory after her high school. But the tragedy was that she carries her fantasies too far when she started living in them, whereas her friend Jansie is practical and down-to-earth. She tries her level best to bring her friend down to the realities.

2. Sophie is a typical adolescent hero-worshipper who carries her fantasizing too far. Do you agree?.

Yes, Sophie is a typical adolescent who worships Danny Casey, the football star. She fantasizes about meeting him and taking his autograph which is quite normal for an adolescent. But she crosses the border of normalcy when she tell her family that she actually met him and that he wants to take her on a date. And then she actually goes to the place and literally waits for him to appear which is abnormal.

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. Sophie has no touch with reality; Janise's feet are, however, firmly planted on the ground. Discuss.

Value Points:

Both school going girls and intimate friends – both belong to lower middle class family – but different from each other. Different approach to life - one a romantic, habitual dreamer and an escapist. Sophie dreams of things beyond her reach – Jansie has a practical approach to life - discourages her friend’s wild dreams – gossipy.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. “Sophie’s dreams and disappointments are all in her mind “.justify this statement.
2. Do you think that Sophie met Danny Casey?Give reasons.
3. What was Sophie’s father’s reaction when Geoff told him about Sophie meeting Casey?
4. When did Sophie actually see Danny Casey?
5. Why was Sophie jealous of Geoff’s silence?
6. 6. What is the adolescent issues discussed in the lesson ‘Going places’?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why did Sophie like her brother Geoff more than any other person? What did he symbolize for her?
2. Give a brief character sketch of Sophie’s father. What kind of a relationship did they share?
3. The story “Going Places” draws a beautiful contrast between ‘fact’ and ‘fiction’. Comment.
4. Do you think that Sophie is a representative of unguided adolescent? Discuss.
5. **Value Based Question:** Answer the following in about 100 words. 5

Sophie ,in the story, ‘Going Places’ is a victim of adolescent fantasizing and hero worship and does not have any touch realistic and practical outlook. But her friend Jansie is very opposite to her and tries hard to bring her to the reality.

One of your friends studying in the city is also such a victim of adolescent fantasizing and hero worship. Write a letter to her making her realise the wrong path she is treading and guiding her through the right way, being true friend..