

Works Cited

Keil, Katherine. "O'Connor's 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find.'" *The Explicator* 65.1 (2006): 44-

7. *ProQuest*. Web. 15 Aug. 2020.

Rea, Robert. "Flannery O'Connor's Murderous Imagination: Southern Ladyhood in 'A Good Man

Is Hard to Find.'" *Southwest Review*, vol. 102, no. 2, 22 Mar. 2017, p. 168. *Gale*

Literature Resource Center,

[ezproxy.nyack.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?](https://ezproxy.nyack.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsglr&AN=edsglr.A510937085&site=eds-live&scope=site)

[direct=true&db=edsglr&AN=edsglr.A510937085&site=eds-live&scope=site](https://ezproxy.nyack.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsglr&AN=edsglr.A510937085&site=eds-live&scope=site)

Kamani Flowers

March 30, 2023

Formal paper 3

When reading Robert Rea's interpretation of an article on Flannery O'Connor's short story "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," Robert Rea pays attention to the informal language, creative word choice, and diction used by all of the characters, which are true to the southern genre. Southern imagery extends beyond the characters to the setting and language. When reading "A good man is hard to find," we read about dirt roads, southern plantations, "Red clay banks," and crops in the field; we are then transported to a setting that is stereotypically southern. The grandmother uses words like "britches" and "a loose" indicating a language that is both southern.

In the article "Flannery O'Connor's Murderous Imagination: Southern Ladyhood in 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find,'" by Robert Rea, it states "Leave it to Flannery O'Connor to amuse readers by pumping a granny full of lead, then handing over her pet cat to the man behind the trigger. It is southern gothic at its best." Robert Rea also communicates that Flannery O'Connor uses humor to keep her audience. Throughout the story, O'Connor uses humorous and creative words and phrases to help keep the reader well engaged. "O'Connor pulls the whole thing off with deadpan humor" (Robert Rea).

This article was very helpful because it allowed me to understand the humor behind Flannery O'Connor statements. When using humor in her short story not only does it keep the reader engaged it also allows the reader to enjoy the short story as well. I agree because even though humor was being used the storyline behind the humor was intense.

This article was more of a dark humor that keep the reader intrigued while still being able to laugh. The sequence is made funnier by O'Connor deft transition from a neutral viewpoint to the grandmother's perspective. For instance, the narration does not even flinch as we discover that the grandma brought the cat in because she's worried, he might accidentally asphyxiate himself if he brushes up against one of the gas burners. The grandmother's absurd concern is not judged by the narrator, rather, it is let to speak for itself.

It's interesting to note that O'Connor's humor is so endearing that it makes her novels appealing to readers who otherwise might not be interested in or be unaware of her usage of the theme of the possibility of divine grace. I believe that humor first serves to separate readers from the characters since we are laughing so hard at them before we start to identify ourselves in their actions. It's too late to turn around as Bailey and John Wesley are led into the woods and we are confronted with "the maximum amount of seriousness."

Dark humor plays an important role in O'Connor's novels. Instead of simply stating the character's cruelty in "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," O'Connor chooses to reveal it through the use of dark humor.

When reading Keil, Katherine. "O'Connor's 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find.'" She draws her attention to the spiritual side. She believes that Flannery O'Connor uses her short story "A

Good Man is hard to find” To demonstrate the transformative power of human compassion and grace. Transformations of the two-character stereotypes, which are embodied by the grandmother and the misfit, are used to get across the story’s message. “O’Connor’s grandmother Journey through the desert of alienation and experience an epiphany that results in resurrection and rebirth.” (Keli Kathrine). O’Conner shows through symbolism, the concept of sin and the character sins, and through grandma’s final acceptance of her sin, that “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” is truly about religious acceptance, and how it is never too late to repent, even in your final moments.

Both Authors had really good view points on how they interpreted the story and what their main focus was on. I can see both sides very clearly both the spiritual side and the dark humor. Both Authors pay attention to words that Flannery O’Connor uses to help the reader understand why they focus on the to the tone that is used and why they view the article in that way. My viewpoint would be to focus more into the Author’s viewpoint and compare the differences on how they view the articles.