

Good Country People

Besides the neutral expression that she wore when she was alone, Mrs. Freeman had two others, forward and reverse, that she used for all her human dealings. Her
 5 forward expression was steady and driving like the advance of a heavy truck. Her eyes never swerved to left or right but turned as the story turned as if they followed a yellow line down the center of
 10 it. She seldom used the other expression because it was not often necessary for her to retract a statement, but when she did, her face came to a complete stop, there was an almost imperceptible
 15 movement of her black eyes, during which they seemed to be receding, and then the observer would see that Mrs. Freeman was no longer there in spirit. As for getting anything across to her when
 20 this was the case, Mrs. Hopewell had given it up. Mrs. Freeman could never be brought to admit herself wrong on any point. She would stand there and if she could be brought to say anything, it was something like, "Well, I wouldn't of said it
 25 was and I wouldn't of said it wasn't," or letting her gaze range over the top kitchen shelf where there was an assortment of dusty bottles, she might
 30 remark, "I see you ain't ate many of them figs you put up last summer."

Mrs. Hopewell liked to tell people that Mrs. Freeman was a *lady* and that she was never ashamed to take her
 35 anywhere or introduce her to anybody they might meet. Then she would tell

how she had happened to hire the Freemans in the first place and how they were a godsend to her and how she had
 40 had them four years. They were good country people. She had telephoned the man whose name they had given as reference and he had told her that Mr. Freeman was a good farmer but that his
 45 wife was the nosiest woman ever to walk the earth. "She's got to be into everything," the man said. "If she don't get there before the dust settles, you can bet she's dead, that's all. She'll want to
 50 know all your business. I can stand him real good," he had said, "but me nor my wife neither could have stood that woman one more minute on this place." That had put Mrs. Hopewell off for a few
 55 days.

She had hired them in the end because there were no other applicants but she had made up her mind beforehand exactly how she would handle the
 60 woman. Since she was the type who had to be into everything, then, Mrs. Hopewell had decided, she would not only let her be into everything, she would see to it that she was into everything—
 65 she would give her the responsibility of everything, she would put her in charge. Mrs. Hopewell had no bad qualities of her own but she was able to use other people's in such a constructive way that
 70 she had kept them four years.

Adapted from Flannery O'Connor, "Good Country People." © 1983 by Regina O'Connor.

Question

"Good Country People" focuses mainly on Mrs. Freeman. Explain how the comments of the man who served as Mrs. Freeman's reference support or contradict the author's description of Mrs. Freeman's facial expressions.

In your short, well organized response, include evidence from the text, to fully answer the prompt.

[illegible]

Analytic Rubric

	Content	Organization	Language
4	The response demonstrates a clear understanding of the task. Ideas are thoroughly explained.	Organization is unified and coherent, with a logical progression of ideas. The response includes a clear, engaging introduction and an effective conclusion.	The language of the response is clear and effectively conveys ideas. Although there may be a few minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics, meaning is clear throughout the response.
3	The response demonstrates an adequate understanding of the task. Ideas are adequately explained.	Organization is apparent, with ideas logically grouped. The response includes a clear, somewhat developed introduction and conclusion.	The language of the response is mostly clear and adequately conveys ideas. There may be some distracting errors in grammar, usage, and/or mechanics, but meaning is usually clear.
2	The response demonstrates a limited understanding of the task. Explanations of ideas are incomplete or unclear.	Organization is simple, with some ideas logically grouped. The response has a brief introduction and conclusion.	The language of the response is sometimes clear, but some ideas are difficult to comprehend. Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may be distracting and may sometimes impede understanding.
1	The response demonstrates little or no understanding of the task. The response lacks explanation of ideas.	Organization of ideas is not clear, with little evidence, if any, of the logical grouping of ideas. The response has a very brief introduction and lacks the required conclusion.	The language of the response is mostly unclear, and ideas are hard to comprehend. Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may frequently be distracting and may significantly impede understanding.

Total (4 points max): _____