**Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?**

1. Describe Connie’s personality, vanity, etc. using examples from the text.
2. How do the descriptions of the drive-in as a “*sacred* building that loomed out of the night to give them what *haven* and what *blessing* they yearned for” and that of the music “always in the background like music at a *church service*” contribute to the development of the meaning of the story?
3. What are Arnold Friend’s first words to Connie? Consider the significance.
4. At what specific points in the story do your expectations about “where you are going” change? Why and how? How might these shifts in your expectations relate to Connie’s?
5. To what extent is the major conflict in Oates’ story external (between Connie and Arnold, Connie and her family, Connie and her social environment)? Why might she act as she does at the story’s end?
6. Discuss the ending and what some of the details might represent:
   1. “If the place lit up with fire, honey, you’d come runnin’ out into my arms...safe at home”
   2. Arnold implies Connie can protect her family from harm if she goes with him.
   3. When Connie collapses trying to call her mom and experiences a “pinpoint of light”
   4. The crappy gold Cadillac
   5. At the end, she “moves out into the sunlight”
7. What happens next, or does it matter?
8. Both Connie and Arnold Friend more than once suggest that he is, or should be, familiar to her. Aside from the fact that she has seen him at least once before, why and how does he seem familiar? Why might that familiarity be significant, or how might it shape your sense of who Arnold is or what he might represent in the story?