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Identity

The theme in “Good Country People” is the way the characters look at themselves and others. O’Conner presents the theme by showing how Mrs. Hopewell thinks of her employees, her daughter, and herself. Mrs. Hopewell does not seem like a god person because she is rude, judgmental, and selfish.

When Mrs. Hopewell looks at her employees she sees them as either trash or good country people. It states, “Mrs. Hopewell has kept the Freemans for so long because they are good country people.” She also states, the only reason she hired the Freemans was because they were the only ones that applied for the job. Now by doing this she is being judgmental towards the Freemans. (Good Country People, page 265)

O’Conner talks about Joy which is Mrs. Hopewell’s daughter, and all Joy desired is approval from her mother. Joy’s mother was rude by calling her own daughter ugly and treated her like a child at the age of thirty-two. O’Conner states, “by age twenty-one Joy changed her first name legally from Joy to Hulga because she never received approval.” (Good Country People, page 266)

Thinking about Mrs. Hopewell, all she thought about was herself and her image. She thought she was better, and above all people. She was so selfish that even though her daughter legally changed her name from Joy to Hulga she still called her Joy, all because she did not like the name Hulga. She said, “that name made her think of a broad blank hull of a battleship.” (Good Country People, page 266)

In conclusion, Mrs. Hopewell seemed like a bad person because she is rude, judgmental, and selfish. She was judgmental with the Freemans, rude with her daughter, and selfish towards others. When thinking about her actions, she sounds like a bully, and no body likes a bully.

Cited Work

Vander Mey, Randall, et al. *The College Writer: A Guide to Thinking, Writing, and Researching.*  5th ed., Cengage, 2015