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Flannery O’Connor’s short story “Good Country People” Included the main character Hulga. Hulga was once known as Joy Hopewell at birth. Life challenges pressed Joy into changing her name into a name of bitterness. The name not only changed on paper it changes Hulga into a different person. O’Connor’s story displayed Hulga’s dismissal of her original name causes her to become rude, hopeless, and vulnerable.

Hulga, a large blond with an artificial leg and weak heart was not easy to live with. Hulga displays rude behavior (pg264) by stomping around with the leg and slamming doors. Despite Ms. Hopewell favorite saying” Nothing is perfect “, Ms. Hopewell excused Hulga’s bad attitude because of the leg. Hulga often makes rude comments such as, “If you want me, here I am -like I am” (pg266) when asked to walk over the fields. It was clear ‘Joy” was no longer present, with the rude thirty-two-year-old.

Without believing in God, Hulga was hopeless. Hulga wished she could teach others philosophy. Hulga’s last name was Hopewell but she had a hopeless demeanor. Hulga was convinced that if she was not at home with her mother, life would be better.

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Hulga had a weak heart and was said might not see forty-five she was a hopeless case. Hulga continued her rude and hopeless behavior because she had no desire to see things differently. Each day she displayed the same behavior until one day her eyes were open to see that things and people are not always as they seem.

Upon meeting Manley, a Bible salesman, Hulga became vulnerable. Hulga wanted to believe that Manley was a Christian. All “Good Country People” were kind and caring. Contrary to this believe, Hulga experienced her first kiss as well as first scam. Manley strategically melted Hulga’s heart by getting her to proclaim her love for him. At this point, she decided that for the first time in her life she was face to face with real innocence (pg277). Hulga entrusted Manley and allowed him to secure the leg in his possession.

It was then Hulga realized that Manley was “just like them all-say one thing and do another(pg278).” Manley left with Hulga’s leg, leaving her stranded and alone inside the barn. Hulga feels desperate. Hulga’s life displayed how people can live bitterly and care about nothing until they end up in a desperate place. Life dealt Hulga a deck of cards that created her negative disposition. Hulga was challenged with a weak heart, sight disfunction, and an artificial leg. These disabilities caused Hulga to be rude, hopeless, and vulnerable.

Work Cited