



Going Places

Class 12 English Core, CBSE

Learning Objectives

- Understand Sophie's dreams, disappointments, and self-created illusions.
- Interpret how the story presents the contrast between imagination and reality.
- Analyse the character of Sophie and her relationship with her family and Geoff.
- Explain the central theme of escapism in the lesson.
- Answer text-based questions with clear evidence from the story.

Introduction

Have you ever imagined a life very different from your own? In **Going Places**, Sophie is a teenager who lives through dreams of fame, success, and a more exciting future. The story shows how imagination can comfort a person, but it can also distance them from reality. It helps you understand why people sometimes create worlds in their minds when real life feels ordinary or restrictive.

Key Ideas in the Lesson

Sophie's Dream World

Sophie is drawn to fantasies of becoming a fashion designer, owning a boutique, or becoming a manager. These dreams are not supported by her actual situation, yet she believes in them strongly. This shows her need to escape the ordinary life around her.



Reality Versus Imagination

The story repeatedly shows a gap between what Sophie imagines and what is true. Her conversations, hopes, and secret expectations often reflect desire rather than fact. This contrast is central to the lesson's meaning.

Sophie's Relationship with Her Family

Sophie's home life is simple and practical. Her father is rough and impatient, while her brother Derek is more realistic and grounded. Sophie's family does not fully understand her dreams, which increases her feeling of isolation.

Sophie and Geoff

Geoff is the person Sophie trusts most because he listens without judging her. She tells him about her imagined meeting with Danny Casey, the football star. Geoff's quiet nature makes him a safe listener, but he also does not challenge her illusion strongly enough.

Danny Casey as a Symbol

Danny Casey is less important as a real person and more important as a symbol of Sophie's hope and fantasy. Sophie imagines a special connection with him because he represents glamour, success, and an exciting escape from her everyday life.

The Theme of Escapism

The lesson shows that escapism can be both comforting and harmful. Sophie uses imagination to cope with dissatisfaction, but her dreams do not change her reality. The story invites you to think about the difference between hopeful imagination and self-deception.

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Text-Based Questions with Answers

1. Why does Sophie dream of a glamorous future?

Sophie dreams of a glamorous future because her present life feels ordinary and limiting. She wants to imagine a life with status, beauty, and success, which makes her feel more important and hopeful.

2. What does the story show about the gap between Sophie's dreams and reality?

The story shows that Sophie's dreams are far more exciting than her real life. While she imagines success and fame, her actual situation remains unchanged, which highlights the contrast between desire and truth.

3. How does Sophie's family influence her character?

Sophie's family influences her by creating a practical and unsympathetic environment. Since her family does not share her dreams, she turns inward and builds her own world of imagination.

4. Why is Geoff important in Sophie's life?

Geoff is important because Sophie trusts him enough to share her fantasies. He listens patiently, which gives Sophie comfort, even though he does not fully understand the emotional need behind her stories.

5. What does Danny Casey represent in the story?

Danny Casey represents Sophie's fantasy of success, excitement, and escape. He is not just a football star to Sophie; he becomes a symbol of the kind of life she wishes for herself.

6. What message does the lesson give about escapism?



The lesson suggests that escapism may provide temporary comfort, but it cannot replace reality. Sophie's dreams help her cope for a while, yet they also show how easily hope can become self-deception.

Reflection Questions

- Why do people sometimes prefer imagination over reality?
- How does Sophie's character make you feel sympathy for her?
- Do you think Geoff helps Sophie, or does he encourage her illusion?
- What is the role of family in shaping a young person's dreams?
- Why is Danny Casey important even though he appears only indirectly?
- What does the story teach about balancing dreams with reality?

Quick Recap

- Sophie is a dreamer who escapes into imagination.
- Her real life is ordinary, while her inner world is glamorous.
- Geoff listens to her, but her fantasies remain unchallenged.
- Danny Casey stands for hope, success, and longing.
- The story explores escapism, self-deception, and the difference between dreams and truth.