

## Textual Analysis Paper

Dr Elizabeth Chase, ENG 181

Examine the drafts for “The Enduring Chill” and the copies of the feedback and commentary Caroline Gordon provided to O’Connor (located in Box 58, Folders 14 and 15 and Box 56, Folder 9).

Write 2-3 pages in which you analyze specific changes O’Connor made to her story prior to its publication. You do not need to have a thesis or an introduction and conclusion, nor should you follow the five-paragraph essay format. Your focus should be on creating 4-6 detailed paragraphs appropriate to the body of the essay. Your paragraphs do not have to be linked together in support of an overall argument. However, in each paragraph you are required to refer to specific passages in both the published story and the draft. You may also make use of Gordon’s editorial feedback and the two O’Connor prose pieces we’ve read (“Writing Short Stories” and “The Nature and Aim of Short Fiction”).

You may focus on changes to specific word choices, on changes to the grammatical structure of O’Connor’s sentences, or on the lines O’Connor chose to add and delete. In other words, you should examine the draft in detail, comparing it to the published text. Then examine Gordon’s comments in detail, and look to see whether the changes O’Connor made are a result of Caroline Gordon’s suggestions. Then consider the following:

- What is the effect of these changes on the story’s significance/meaning?
- How do the changes either improve or diminish O’Connor’s ability to achieve her purpose?
- Did Gordon’s input make O’Connor’s story more or less effective as a “complete” short story?

The goal of this assignment is to conduct a close reading of a manuscript draft and then to make your own argument about the significance of the changes O’Connor made to “The Enduring Chill.” IN other words, you must *analyze*, rather than simply identify, these changes. For each change you identify and use in your assignment, make your own statement about why that change is important.