Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“The Life You Save May Be Your Own” by Flannery O’Connor (pp. 940-948)**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Flannery O’Connor’s aunt preferred an alternative ending in which Mr. Shiftlet returns for Lucynell. This ending would, obviously, change the empty feeling readers are left with. How did the end of this story leave you feeling? Explain why.
2. Explain how Mr. Shiftlet exploits the Craters. AND…

How does Mrs. Crater want to exploit Mr. Shiftlet? (the verb “to exploit” means to take advantage of and to receive a benefit from…)

1. Does the story depict a conflict between ignorance and evil, or a world in which everyone is morally questionable? Explain.

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1. What is a theme for this story? (In other words, what “insightful message about life” do you think Flannery O’Connor was trying to get across to us?)
2. How can the title of this story relate to the theme?
3. Who wins the MIC (Most Immoral Character) award? Explain.
4. Infer: Why might a devout Christian like Flannery O’Connor be drawn to characters without a spiritual center (or moral compass), like hypocrites and swindlers?