

The drunkard analysis essay



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Drinking underage is not something a person jokes about; but Frank O'Connor story "The Drunkard" is a story about Larry, a kid, who gets drunk, but does it for a good cause. In the story O'Connor uses first person point of view, irony and humor to make this story more entertaining. The narrator is Larry Delaney, the main character, the son of Mick Delany. In the beginning of the story after Mr. Dooley, Mick Delany friend, dies he says "I did not take the report of his death seriously. Even then I felt there must be a catch and that some summer evening Mr.

Dooley must reappear at our gate to give us the lowdown on the next world. " (339) Only from Larry's point of view would it have been known that he thought of it like that; because his dad was upset his friend died and his mother just felt bad because it was her husband friend that died. Irony also played a significant important part in this story. I believe the most important part of the story that shows irony of situation was after the mother asked who will take care of Larry. "I'll look after Larry," Father said graciously. "The little walk will do him good. There was no more to be said, though we all knew I didn't need anyone to look after me, and that I could quite well have stayed home and looked after Sonny, but I was being attached to the party to act as a brake on Father. As a brake I had never achieved anything, but Mother still had great faith in me. (341) This quote I think is the most ironic one of the story because the mother positions her son as a "brake" for her husband drinking. This is not the first time the mother positions Larry in that position for his father, but it is the first time he succeeds.

When Larry found he was going with his father to the funeral to be a "brake" on his drinking, he had the night all planned out of how it was going to end

up. He imagined taking his father home drunk again and all the neighbors calling him a drunk. The irony was that Larry actually achieved getting his father away from drinking but he got himself drunk in the process and it was his father taking him home drunk. O'Connor shows humor many times in the story. One moment I thought was humorous was when the Father told Larry "Run out in the road and play, can't you. (342) this quote not only shows that the father did not have a good relationship with Larry, but at the same time it was comical because this is what parents tell their children when they want to get rid of them. Another way O'Connor shows humor in the story was when Larry was drunk and his father was taking him home and they encountered a gang of old ladies. When Larry saw that the gang of old ladies were looking at him he started singing his father's favorite song "Though lost to Monica and cold in grave He returns to Kincora no more. (345) His father would tell him to hush, but he would sing it even louder. In conclusion, I think the story "The Drunkard" by Frank O'Connor had great significance and made it more entertaining by being first person point of view and having irony and humor because the irony made the humor possible. The story being narrated by anyone other than Larry would have been less ironic and humorous since he is the one acting out the events. Instead of being a sad story about his father being an alcoholic he tells an exciting humorous story of how a young boy stopped his father from getting drunk.