

1- Write a brief description of the protagonist, Nancy Lee.

Nancy Lee is the main character of the story "One Friday Morning". She is a coloured character studying at the George Washington High School. She is in her senior year, and she has an ability to drawing and art. In the story, Nancy is trying to win the Artist Club competition. The award is the scholarship for the art school.

Her family move out to the North a couple of years ago, and her father is a mail carrier, and her mother is working as a social worker. Both her parents studied in universities that black people went, but her mother pursued further education in Northern university.

2- How does she feel about school, race, and her country? Does her worldview change throughout the story? If so, how?

Nancy loves her school and her classmates. She fits the school so perfectly that she sometimes forgets herself being coloured. She is proud of her race because she is connected to her past, and it's her roots. She feels proud about her country because it's a free country where everybody can make his/her dreams real. Her worldview doesn't change throughout the story. By getting the award, Nancy Lee has encouragement and hope that discrimination towards black people is changing. She thought this award is a sign of change in America. Even in her speech, she was determined to mention how this award is important for her race and finishing with America is free for all. After she learned that she had been disqualified for the scholarship, her mood dropped, and all her thoughts were collapsed for America's change. However, with encouragement from Miss O'Shay, she gained hope that she will be the one to bring democracy and change.

2- Compare and contrast Miss O'Shay's description of Irish people and Nancy Lee's situation? Is Miss O'Shay's comparison fair? Why or why not?

In Miss O'Shay's description of Irish people, Irish people used to be called a "Dirty Irish" and in the past, they were told to return to their lands. Also, Nancy Lee's situation is similar to Miss O'Shay's. Nancy's race experienced discrimination because of their skin colour, and they were also told to get back to their country. However, instead of going back to their home country, they insisted on staying there. The common sense for the Irish people has changed throughout the time, as is seen from the principal's position at school. Nancy's race always has a blockage in their education because their skin colour gives everything into daylight, and people easily discriminate when they know everything. Miss O'Shay's comparison was not fair because skin colour or character traits are things that can be easily hidden from the outside. As long as they don't say they're Irish, they won't have a problem. However, Nancy's position (Black people's position) is more challenging because their skin colour is distinguishable, and it makes them easy to be a target for the people.

4- What is the theme of One Friday Morning? What is the short about? What does the author want us to reflect upon in the aftermath or reading it?

One Friday Morning's theme is that people with differences face discrimination and prejudice in their education and work path, and even though people may face problems because of their differences, they have to stand up and search for their rights. The short is about a girl who gets discriminated and unworthy of scholarship because of her skin colour. The author wants us to reflect equality and indiscriminate towards people with differences. These differences can be in skin colour or nationality. The author wants to say everybody deserves a chance to show and educate themselves. Generalizing one race according to their differences is not true and appropriate.