

Worksheet 1. Glimpses of George Willard

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Class: _____

Write what you can infer about the character George from each of the following excerpts taken from stories in *Winesburg, Ohio*. To clarify your understanding, examine the contexts of the passages.

Excerpt	Inferences
<p>“Pausing in his speech, Wing Biddlebaum looked long and earnestly at George Willard. His eyes glowed. Again he raised the hands to caress the boy and then a look of horror swept over his face.” (“Hands”)</p>	
<p>“The tales that Doctor Percival told George Willard began nowhere and ended nowhere. Sometimes the boy thought they must all be inventions, a pack of lies. And then again he was convinced that they contained the very essence of truth.” (“The Philosopher”)</p>	
<p>“Shaking with fright and anxiety the young reporter lurked in the hallway outside the door of the room in which Joe Welling talked to the two Kings. ... The listener in the hall walked up and down, lost in amazement.” (“A Man of Ideas”)</p>	
<p>“Perhaps a dozen times George Willard and the strange, shapeless man who lived in his father’s hotel had been on the point of talking. The young man looked at the hideous, leering face staring about the hotel dining room and was consumed with curiosity.” (“Respectability”)</p>	
<p>“George Willard, who had been sitting for an hour idly playing with a lead pencil, greeted him effusively. ‘I’ve been trying to write a love story,’ he explained, laughing nervously. Lighting a pipe, he began walking up and down the room. ‘I know what I’m going to do. I’m going to fall in love. I’ve been sitting here thinking it over and I’m going to do it.’” (“The Thinker”)</p>	

Lesson 2. George Willard's Development

<p>“The young reporter went willingly enough. Enoch Robinson asked him to go after the two had talked for ten minutes. The boy was a little afraid but had never been more curious in his life. A hundred times he had heard the old man spoken of as a little off his head and he thought himself rather brave and manly to go at all.” (“Loneliness”)</p>	
<p>“George Willard, he felt, belonged to the Town, typified the town, represented in his person the spirit of the town. . . . Did he not walk whistling and laughing through Main Street?” (“Queer”)</p>	