

SUMMARY

Going Places' is the story of an adolescent girl called Sophie. She hero worshipped a footballer named Danny Casey. She thought he loved her, she loved him but she was disillusioned at last. The story in fact tells us one of the characteristics of an adolescent. Sophie was a young girl in school. She had all sorts of unrealistic dreams. She would own a boutique shop. She would earn the necessary capital by working as a natural manager without training and experience or working as an actress. She would not realize that she would end up working in the local biscuit factory as the girls of poor families like hers usually did. She was passing through her adolescence, eager to enter the adult world like her brother Geoff. One day she met Danny Casey, a talented footballer of a club called the United Club. She asked for an autograph. As there was no paper and pen he promised to meet her the next Saturday and give her the autograph.

Danny Casey was a celebrated footballer. He was an idol to many including Geoff, his father and Sophie. Adolescent girls, like Sophie fall in love with such celebrities as boys fall in love with cinema actresses and girls with actors. Sophie thought that Danny was in love with her and loved her. She thought that she too loved him. She was very excited and shared the treasured secret with her brother Geoff. Neither Geoff nor her father believed in her seriously. Geoff thought that Danny must have a string of girls and he had no reason to be interested in a poor girl like Sophie. But Sophie was confident that Danny would meet her the next Saturday.

On the appointed Saturday, she walked by the bank of the canal and sat on a sheltered place waiting for Danny. She was full of excitement. She waited pretty long but there was no Danny. She began to doubt if Danny would turn up at all. She was worried to think how embarrassing it would be for her. Her brother had told her that Danny would never turn up. Now he would prove right. Her worries were not emotional but about the failure of her love. She rose to go back. Yet she hoped against hope that Danny would meet her in the arcade in front of the Royce's Store. But Danny never turned up. Sophie's fantasy came to an end.

CHARACTER SKETCHES

Character of Sophie:

- Ambitious
- Wants to go places, wants to break free from her world
- Lives in a world of dreams, fantasy
- Loves Geoff, her elder brother
- Wants to be a part of his grown up world.
- Possessive about him, wants him to understand and believe her.
- She idealized Geoff, felt comfortable sharing her secrets with him.
- His quiet personality attracted her because, she could imagine about his friends and the places he was going.

Character of Jansie:

- Practical because she tries to dissuade Sophie from her dreams by talking about their real situation.

- Realistic because she tells her friend about them being earmarked (somebody reserved for a specific purpose) for the biscuit factory.
- Contented – happy and satisfied with whatever she had. Not very ambitious. Doesn't want to go places.
- A gossip according to Sophie. Sophie did not share her imaginary meeting with Danny Casey with Jansie.

Character of Sophie's father:

- Hardworking (his appearance when Sophie came home).
- Wanted to provide better facilities for the family (he asks Sophie to buy a decent house if she gets some money).
- Practical
- Doesn't humour (encourage) Sophie by believing her wild stories.
- Doesn't indulge in self pity. Contented with his socio-economic position.

Character of Sophie's mother:

Was always hard at work because of the financial constraints. She lived in a small room with her family; a place which was used even for cooking purpose as well as laundry. Continuous household chores had left the lady with a bent back.

Character of Geoff, Sophie's brother:

An apprentice mechanic, Geoff had a life of his own in which he did not allow any of his family member. However, Sophie suspected that he had befriended some special people and he wished that he would let her share his secrets and allow her to meet his group of friends. He was an introvert and his silence made Sophie feel jealous. She had a fascination for his life because it was unknown to her. She wished he would take her along on his new bike for rides and then she would also be a part of his mystery world.

THEME

The lesson explores the theme of adolescent fantasies and hero worship. Sophie and Jansie are both in the last year of high school and both knew that they were destined to work in the biscuit factory as they belong to a working class family.