

Story Unit

**“Paul’s Case”
by: Willa Cather**

INSTRUCTIONS: Read “Paul’s Case” in Story and Structure and answer questions: 2, 3, and 5 in the book. Then continue with the following questions.

Questions from Story and Structure:

2. What details of Paul's appearance and behavior, as his teachers see him, indicate that he is different from other boys?

3. Explain Paul's behavior. Why does he lie? What does he hate? What does he want? Contrast the world of Cordelia Street with the worlds Paul finds at Carnegie Hall, at the Schenley, at the stock theater, and in New York.

5. Is Paul a static or developing character? If the latter, at what points does he change? Why?

Class Questions:

1. Find 2-3 words (adjectives) that reveal Paul’s feelings about Cordelia Street and 2-3 words associated with his “life” at the theatre.
2. Find quotes in the story that mention flowers or art (4).
3. Of what did Paul dream?
4. What is happening in the story when the author mentions that Paul “really lived?”
5. Explain the line: “in Paul’s world, the natural nearly always wore the guise of ugliness, that a certain element of artificiality seemed to him necessary in beauty (205). What does this mean?
6. What is the affect of “taking away” the theatre from Paul?
7. What do the flowers symbolize in the story? Explain. Tip: review your quotes found (question #2). This will help you determine the symbolism.