

## Worksheet 2. Sherwood Anderson's Portrait of George Willard

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

The six stories that were assigned for reading in *Winesburg, Ohio* zero in on George and his relationship with his family and residents of the town. Use this worksheet to analyze the following six instances where these relationships are described. Be sure to use evidence from the text in your answers.

### “Mother”

1. How has Mrs. Willard's life changed over the years?
2. Describe the relationship of mother and son.
3. What does the simile comparing his mother to “a tigress whose cub has been threatened” suggest about the Willard family?
4. What does George expect in his own future?

### “Nobody Knows”

5. As he approaches Louise Trunnion, what do George's thoughts and feelings reveal about him?
6. Does the story show George in a positive or a negative light? Explain.

**Lesson 2. George Willard's Development**

**“An Awakening”**

7. How is George's relationship with Belle Carpenter both similar to and different from his relationship with Louise Trunnion?
  
8. In the story, George has two apparent awakenings. Describe the first one.
  
9. What happens in the interaction between George and Ed Handby?
  
10. Describe George's second awakening. Is it more or less authentic than the first one?

**“Death”**

11. The story “Death” serves as a complement to the earlier story, “Mother.” What more does it reveal about Mrs. Willard?
  
12. How does George respond to her death? What do his responses show about him?

**Lesson 2. George Willard's Development**

**“Sophistication”**

13. What does the story stress about both George and Helen?

14. Is this a love story? Why, or why not?

**“Departure”**

15. How do Winesburg's inhabitants react to George's eminent departure?

16. Describe George's state of mind and feelings during his leave-taking of his hometown.