

GOING PLACES

THEME

'If dreams were horses, beggars would ride. 'The story "Going Places" centres around a similar theme. Dreams and fantasies are a natural and an integral part of our life. Without them life would lose its meaning. They acquire a prominent place in the life of the adolescents who view life as a bed of roses and spend most of their time in the world of their dreams. These youngsters easily take to hero-worship hoping to make it big in life like their heroes. They dream of their idols and fantasize about them.

Although in their heart of hearts they know the reality, they most often do not want to accept it and try to turn their dreams into their reality. The story also highlights the strength of family bonds and relationships. The family is one anchor which supports you and helps you in times of need. Thus, Sophie's family tries its best to help her see reality. Her brother Geoff, with whom she shares all her secrets and her friend Janise also help her, by not rejecting her dreams, but by believing in her and wishing she came out of them comfortably.

➤ **Sophie-** Sophie belonged to a poor family. She had a lot of unfulfilled dreams. She wanted to own a boutique, she wanted to be an actress, and she wanted to be a fashion designer and much more. She longed to be anything that was beyond her reach. When she could not achieve them she satisfied herself by telling lies and enjoying when people believed her.

➤ **Sophie Tells a Lie**

After an interval Sophie came with another sophisticated lie: She met Danny Casey, a popular football player from Ireland now a distraction for the English youth. As usual she made her brother Geoff believe this story by reminding him he was always the first one she told her secrets.

➤ **The Lie Spreads**

Geoff took the story to their father and then proudly to his friends. The story reached many and people started asking Sophie about her relations with their great hero, Casey. They were also told that Sophie was to meet Danny in a park on a certain day.

➤ ***Lie or Truth?***

Days passed and everyone forgot Sophie and her Casey. By this time the effect of telling the lie continuously made Sophie believe her own lie. She could not think of it in clear lights. In a way Sophie became the victim of her own repeated lies.

➤ **Victim of a Lie**

The Saturday on which Sophie was to meet Casey finally arrived. Sophie found her walking to the park to meet Danny Casey. She sat there and began waiting for Casey's coming. Minutes ticked away and Danny delayed his coming. Sophie's excitement gave way to doubts. She began to doubt if he would really come or not. She grew sad for his not coming. And then, when she thought the other way, she realized that it was all a lie. Realization came to her. She saw how big a burden it was for her to put herself in such a situation. She rose and walked back.