

- Connected to landscape, elements, animals, farming
- Provider: husband and father – “reassuring of fecundity and life’s continuance” (293)
- Physical violence – “Nothin like hurtin somebody to make him hear good” (300)
- Theme and genre
 - Short story: collapse of time frame into vignettes, cycles – “One thing never changed: the brilliant charge of their infrequent couplings was darkened by the sense of time flying, never enough time, never enough” (307)
 - Emphasis on what is not said, not on explanation – “They never talked about the sex, let it happen” (291)
 - “What could he say?” (295)
 - “He didn’t know which way it was, the tire iron or a real accident” (312)
 - “There was some open space between what he knew and what he tried to believe” (318)

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Page 2 of 2