



Using RACES to
defend, explain,
support, prove...

In “Coffee, Snacks, Worms”



Theme is the central message in a story. The theme for “Coffee, Snacks, Worms” is appearance vs reality; specifically, Karleen Bradford explores how individuals use false identities to deal with life’s realities. First, this is evident in the protagonist, Kate, who, throughout the story, imagines she is someone else to escape the boredom then the fear present in her real life. For example, the story opens with Kate daydreaming about “Stephanie” who “ *took a step backwards, then stopped. She looked behind her and gasped in terror*” (). The use of italics indicates that the author is changing the point of view from third person to first person and giving the reader insight into the protagonist’s imagination. The fact that this occurs as part of the introduction and resolution indicates its importance to the story’s plot and theme. Finally, the fact that everytime this happens, it acts as an escape from reality (from the monotony of math class and work at the gas station to the terror of being held at knife point) indicates that Kate uses fictional plots to deal with real life. As a result, Kate’s character demonstrates how fiction can help an individual deal with the facts of life.