

Name _____

Essay Writing: Grace Under Fire Answer Key

(Sample Essay)

In *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, Flannery O'Connor shows that moments of grace often come when people are under extreme pressure. For most of the story, the grandmother is selfish, vain, and focused on appearances. She criticizes others and manipulates her family without much self-awareness.

However, when she faces The Misfit at the end, her behavior shifts. Instead of thinking only about herself, she reaches out to him physically and emotionally. She calls him her own child, recognizing their shared humanity. This act, even though it comes too late to save her life, shows her moment of grace.

O'Connor presents grace under pressure as a powerful truth: people often find their deepest compassion and faith only when forced to face death. The grandmother's final gesture leaves readers with a haunting reminder that redemption can appear even at the last breath.