

Who Has Seen the Wind  
Essay

In the novel, *Who Has Seen the Wind*, the theme "one's understanding of God matures" is evident in Brian's life as the novel develops. Brian's understanding of God matures as the novel progresses. In the beginning, Brian's concept of God is immature. Brian thinks God, who he calls R.W., is an imaginary friend. As the novel continues, he is encouraged to think about God when he talks to Saint Sammy. Finally, at the end of the novel, Digby straightens out Brian's thinking of God.

In the beginning of the novel, Brian's understanding of God is childlike and immature. Brian thinks God is an imaginary friend. Brian has a very creative imagination, in which R.W. rides a vacuum cleaner.<sup>1</sup> He also thinks that there are many Gods, each having many arms.<sup>2</sup> When he talks to Forsbie about God he is misled because Forsbie tells Brian that God is all grapes and bloody.<sup>3</sup> Brian also goes and visits Mr. Hislop, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, who tells him God is a spirit. One day Brian imagines that God comes and visits him. God tells Brian that he will get revenge on Art and his grandmother because they were not nice to him.<sup>4</sup> Brian's knowledge of God is still young and immature.

In the middle of the novel, Brian talks to Saint Sammy and is encouraged to think about God.<sup>5</sup> Saint Sammy is a religious man who is familiar with God's Word. He relies on God to show him the right way to deal with Bent Candy. Brian is in such awe of Saint Sammy's knowledge and closeness to God that he then desires to seek after God.<sup>6</sup> The knowledge and closeness that Saint Sammy has to God encourages Brian. Brian is spiritually uplifted by Saint Sammy's encouragement.

Finally at the end of the novel, Digby helps resolve Brian's thinking of God. Brian sometimes gets "a feeling" about God.<sup>7</sup> This "feeling" comes as a result of Brian's maturity. Digby encourages him by telling him that he will understand better as he grows older and matures more. Digby knows that Brian is young and learning. He sees that Brian is confused about God.<sup>8</sup> Digby also doesn't understand God but, he is willing to help Brian out. Brian's thinking of God is made clearer to him by Digby.

As the novel progresses, Brian spiritually matures in that, his understanding of God matures. At first Brian has an immature thinking of God, in which he believed God was his imaginary friend. In the middle of the novel, Saint Sammy encourages him to learn more about God. Finally, at the end of the novel, Digby helps clarify Brian's thinking of God, which allows him to seek God in a new direction.

