

**Title of your literary work: Going Home**

**Author's name: Pete Hamill**

**Genre: Short story**

<p><u>Setting</u> (Where/when &amp; geographical/social location)</p>	<p>The setting of the story is the US in 1970. It is a very volatile time-period as the Vietnam war is ongoing and the American society is in a state of flux.</p> <p>The actual story takes place on a bus going from New York to Florida, from the north to the south. A journey from cold to warm which the protagonist undertakes.</p>
<p><u>Characters</u> (The most important characters of the story – protagonist = main character)</p>	<p>The protagonist of the story is called Vingo. He is a man of indeterminable age, who has just been released from prison. He is going home to see if he is still welcome with his family.</p> <p>Prior to his incarceration he wrote a letter to his wife saying that she could forget him and move on if she so desired. He has not communicated with her at all during his 4-year prison stint, until he send her a letter telling her that he was about to be released on parole.</p> <p>In this letter he told her that if she wanted to remain married to him she should hang a yellow handkerchief from a big oak tree which the bus would pass, if there was a handkerchief he would get off the bus, if not he would not depart. This uncertainty is what shines through the whole story, as the protagonist does not know what fate awaits him.</p> <p>After some prodding, he tells his story to another one of the passengers, a young girl. She is fascinated by his tale and shares his experiences with her friends on the bus. She treats him nicely and offers his human companionship, which he has not experienced for several years.</p> <p>As the bus rolls into Brunswick (the city in which the protagonist's family lives). The oak tree is <b>covered</b> with yellow handkerchiefs, this shows how much his family have missed him and that he is welcomed home with open arms.</p> <hr/> <p>The antagonist of the story is the girl on the bus. She is not an antagonist in a traditional sense, as she does not possess traditional antagonist features; however, she is confronting the protagonist to make him tell her his story.</p> <p>Her name, looks, and age are all inconsequential. She merely serves as a conduit for the protagonist to tell his story. She also symbolises compassion and hope, things that the protagonist has longed for.</p>
<p><u>Plot</u> (The basic outline)</p>	<p>The story is told chronologically over the course of a two-day bus journey.</p>