PAUL's CASE

• “Fairy Tales and Secret Loves”

Look again at what Cather tells us about the world of the theater and concert hall in Paul's mind (paragraph 15): “This was Paul's fairy tale, this was his secret love. The moment he breathed the smell behind the scenes, his imagination took fire. The moment the violins began to play, he shook off all stupid and ugly things.”

In this exercise, you are asked to interview a classmate. You want to find what it is that allows this person to “shake off all stupid and ugly things.” Role-play your interview to the whole class. Make sure you add a short introduction telling the audience the purpose of this interview, the questions and answers, and finally add a statement that closes or wraps up your findings. During the interview, you may want to ask about some of the following aspects and others of your own:

- What he/she does to forget about problems
- Particular place he/she goes where his/her problems disappear
- Activity that makes him/her feel most relaxed, most himself/herself
- How and when he/she feels most natural and why
- Activity that allows him/her to feel most free from other people’s expectations
- A career, in his/her imagination, that he/she may not actually have in real life
- Other people he/she knows who have secret dreams, secret loves