

Janus

4. *Ja-nus*. Roman mythology. The god of gates and doors, and beginnings and endings, represented as having two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward.

5 marks

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Given the above definition, explain why the author may have selected this title for her short story.

The author Ann Beattie titles the story "Janus" because the bowl is representing the past and the future of Andrea. She places the bowl in houses that she is trying to sell because she uses it as a new beginning for not just each family, but for herself as well. Andrea is "in love" with the bowl because it has ~~these~~ memories from her past love, but also opens the door for new love to come in. The author has Andrea representing the two faces just like Janus, ~~the~~ ~~has~~ and has the bowl representing the symbol of beginnings and endings. After every sale, Andrea places the bowl in a new house showing the closing of one gate, but opening another. In society, people are constantly torn between the ~~past~~ future or new beginnings and the past or the end or closing of the door of previous events or memories. A lot of the time this can cause people to be unhappy and confused with their life because they don't want the past gates to close and new ones to open, but to be happy everything must come to an end and new memories, loves and events will begin.