

Teaching Pack: *Brooklyn*

Cambridge IGCSE™ / IGCSE (9–1)
Literature in English 0475 / 0992

Cambridge O Level
Literature in English 2010

For examination from 2028



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Introduction

This *Teaching Pack* supports teachers and learners when studying Cambridge IGCSE / IGCSE (9–1) and O Level Literature in English set texts.

Set texts regularly rotate on the syllabus and may change from one year of examination to the next. Before you begin teaching, check the set text list for the year in which your candidates will take their examinations.

Teachers may use this teaching pack to engage their learners when introducing a set text, or as a revision tool.

The content of these set text resources will need to be expanded on to cover what candidates are expected to know and be able to comment on in an examination.

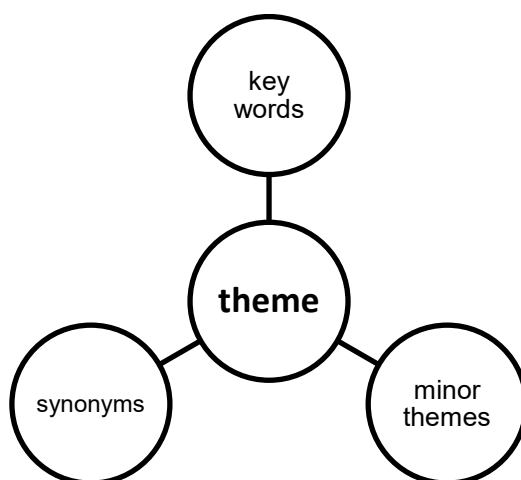
To increase learners' understanding and appreciation of the set text we recommend learners to set up a **reading log**, which could include:

- brief synopses of chapters/acts (in no more than a couple of sentences in their own words)
- a timeline of events (useful when a narrative is arranged non-chronologically)
- a list or diagram of characters and their relationships with each other
- first impressions of main characters
- initial thoughts about the main themes or ideas in the text.

The teaching pack aims to help learners to understand and think about the themes of the text, key quotations and their meanings, the significance of character behaviour, relationships and actions and how characters are depicted in the set text being studied.

The key words we use for the themes in this *Teaching Pack* are not exhaustive.

We suggest teachers discuss synonyms and alternative key words for themes that are identified for a text. Create key major theme mind maps and then from each of those key themes map connected and subsidiary/minor themes.



Animation videos

This *Teaching Pack* can be used with the videos which were produced using the software *Video Scribe* www.videoscribe.co/en/, but a range of other alternative animation and storyboarding tools may equally be used:

- www.storyboardthat.com
Online digital storytelling tool – free and pay for subscriptions available
- <https://wonderunit.com/storyboarder/>
Storyboarding software – free to download, but has to be installed
- www.powtoon.com/edu-home/
Online video and animation creation – free and pay for subscriptions
- www.animaker.com
Online animated video creator – free and pay for subscriptions
- https://goanimate4schools.com/public_index
Online storyboard, scene and video creation tool – pay for subscription
- <http://plasq.com/apps/comiclife/macwin/>
Downloadable and app-based tools for creating comic books
- www.openoffice.org/product/impress.html
A tool for creating multimedia presentations
- <https://products.office.com/en-gb/powerpoint>
Microsoft PowerPoint for simple presentations as well as more complex multimedia presentations.

The teaching pack and videos aim to help learners to understand and think about the key events and themes of the text, key quotations and their meanings, the significance of character behaviour, relationships and actions and how characters are depicted in the set text being studied.

Lesson resources



Included in this pack are some resources to use with your learners. You may ask your learners to create their own worksheets similar to these, around another text, which they are studying:

Character summaries and quotations – learners create their own character summaries including quotations.

Character animations – after watching the animation, learners can work in pairs to fill in the worksheet to identify the character and discuss if it is a good representation.

Reflection – after reading the text / watching the videos, learners reflect, consider and explore.

Quiz – a fun quiz to test the learners' knowledge of the text before or after watching the videos.

1. Themes and text summary

Some of the themes Colm Tóibín explores include:

- Identity and self-discovery
- Belonging
- Emigration
- Love
- Gender and expectation
- Change

Part 1

Tóibín's coming of age novel follows the life of Eilis Lacey, a young Irish woman living in a small town in southeast Ireland, called Enniscorthy, in the 1950s. Following an opportunity, Eilis leaves Ireland and emigrates to Brooklyn, America, in search of a better future with greater opportunities. The reader follows Eilis's challenging and emotional journey through love, identity and growth from dependence to independence.

The novel starts with Eilis Lacey watching her sister Rose prepare to go out for the evening. Rose is popular and confident and has a good job in an office and Eilis lives in her shadow. One day Eilis is summoned to visit the pompous Miss Kelly at her grocery shop. Eilis is studying bookkeeping and Miss Kelly has heard that she is good with numbers and so offers her a Sunday job. Eilis doesn't like Miss Kelly and her gossiping, superior manner, but accepts the job so that she can help the family with money. The job is poorly paid and Miss Kelly expects extra hours for no extra pay.

Rose does not like her sister working at Miss Kelly's grocery but recognises that there are not many prospects for Eilis in Ireland. After a chance encounter with an old family friend, Father Flood, at her golf-club, Rose sees an opportunity for Eilis and so invites him over to have tea with the family. Eilis realises that the meeting has been arranged by Rose so that Father Flood can offer Eilis the opportunity to emigrate to New York. Here he will arrange for her to take a job in a department store and to lodge near his parish. It is decided by Rose and her mother that Eilis will take this opportunity.

Eilis's boat crossing to America is miserable. She suffers terribly with seasickness and a desperate sense of loneliness. Tóibín makes the reader aware of Eilis's vulnerability, despite the opportunities that will now become available to her.

Part 2

On her arrival in Brooklyn, Eilis moves into Mrs Kehoe's boarding house for girls. Mrs Kehoe is a gossip, and Eilis is uncomfortable amongst the other Irish boarding girls who appear brash and indiscreet. Quickly, Eilis starts her job at Bartocci's department store, working on the shop floor, but with dreams of moving into office book-keeping work.

Eilis finds the department store work easy but struggles to settle into her new life. She feels deeply homesick and detached from her family. She struggles with isolation, feeling like 'a ghost' that has 'no friends and family'. After a difficult day in the department store Father Flood is called to talk to Eilis about homesickness, and he assures her that this passes and that all of the girls feel it at some point. He also brings Eilis news that he has enrolled her in a night book-keeping class that she is to start immediately. Slowly, Eilis settles into her new life. She becomes more confident in her job and learns how to handle customers more assertively. Eilis is still lonely, but she finds that she starts to settle in to life in Brooklyn, and she enjoys her night classes.

Part 3

A turning point comes for Eilis when she attends an Irish dance organised by Father Flood. Eilis doesn't want to attend but is pressured into it by the other girls in her lodging. While Eilis is on the dance floor she is approached by the kind and cheerful Tony, an Italian-American plumber. Eilis enjoys dancing with him and allows him to walk her home. Their relationship develops slowly and tenderly; he waits for her after her night class and takes her to movies. Tony offers Eilis the stability, comfort and companionship that she has been lacking. When Eilis realises that Tony loves her, she is awkward and unsure, but a few days pass, and she returns his sentiments and tells him that 'I love you too'.

As their time together moves on, Tony tells Eilis of his plans to buy land on Long Island and to build houses, one of which will be theirs. He has big dreams and high hopes for their future. His ambition and his optimism are representative of the American ideal of opportunity and progress. As the time passes and their relationship grows, Eilis starts to imagine a future for herself with Tony and a life that she chooses. Eilis studies diligently for her exams and passes them, she writes less frequently to her family because she is more settled, and she enjoys being an independent woman.

Just as things in Eilis's life seem settled, tragedy strikes and her sister Rose dies suddenly from a heart condition. Eilis is filled with grief and guilt that her sister had been ill and she knew nothing of it. Days pass in a blur until Eilis's mother writes asking her to return and expressing her loneliness and how slowly the days pass now that Rose is gone. Eilis talks to Father Flood, who agrees to get her some time off from the department store so that she can return to Ireland for a month to see her mother. Fearing she will not return, Tony persuades Eilis to marry him before she leaves. They marry at 2 o'clock in the afternoon a week before Eilis leaves for Ireland. The marriage is intimate and romantic, but secret from the outside world symbolising Eilis's split identity.

Part 4

On her return to Ireland, Eilis finds that much has changed and that she has little in common with her old friends and even her mother. She had expected the return home to be easy, but she has now changed too much to fit back in; even her clothes seem too bright for her mother's approval. Eilis also keeps her marriage to Tony a secret from her mother, which widens the emotional gap between the two of them and leaves Eilis feeling as if she were 'strangely two people'.

On a trip to the beach with her old friend Nancy, Eilis meets Jim Farrell, a respected local man. Eilis is cautious of Jim, but slowly she finds herself drawn to him. As the days pass, Eilis takes up Rose's old job as a bookkeeper in an office and she starts to find ease in her old life and she finds a new respect amongst her old friends. Eilis's relationship with Jim mirrors the start of her relationship with Tony. They are shy and quiet, intimate moments pass tenderly between them on dinner and cinema dates, yet Eilis feels the pull of Tony and the life she has left in Brooklyn. She thinks about what a life in Ireland with Jim might hold for her, but her fractured identity means she struggles to find any sense of what the 'right' decision would be. Eilis feels the pull of two different homes and two different identities, reflecting the inner turmoil of migration.

After Nancy's wedding, Miss Kelly, Eilis's former employer calls for Eilis to visit. On her visit she finds out that Miss Kelly is a distant cousin of Mrs Kehoe, her landlady in Brooklyn, and has told Miss Kelly of Eilis' marriage to Tony. Realising that this information will be spread very quickly, Eilis decides to return to Brooklyn and to her husband Tony. This time, the choice to return to Brooklyn is her own. She says goodbye to her mother, packs her bags and leaves the next morning. Eilis' future is left unknown, but she boards the ship owning the choices that she has made and certain that her future lies with Tony.

2. Character summaries and quotation analysis

Eilis Lacey

At the start of the novel Eilis is passive, she is defined by the expectations of her family and living in the shadow of her older sister Rose. She is limited by her lack of choice and is shaped more by her circumstances than by her own choices. When Eilis accepts the job at Miss Kelly's grocery shop, she does so because her mother would think it best that she helps the family with some money. Eilis is an observant and sharp employee who notices that Miss Kelly treats people unfairly, has favourites and gossips, but she accepts her role unquestioningly, demonstrating her passive obedience to family expectations. Even the move to Brooklyn isn't of Eilis's choosing, it is Rose that seizes the opportunity for her when Reverend Flood visits the golf club Rose attends. Through Eilis's blind acceptance of the move to Brooklyn, *Tóibín* explores the lack of autonomy for young women living in this era of small-town Ireland.

The boat journey across to America is miserable for Eilis; she is 'exhausted' with seasickness, lonely and feels her distance from home. Eilis's first few weeks in Brooklyn are similarly hard, the work at the department store is simple enough, but Eilis is homesick, friendless and struggling to fit into her new home at Mrs Kehoe's boarding house. She finds the other girls to be overconfident and rude and Mrs Kehoe to be a terrible gossip.

After Eilis has a moment of crisis at the department store where she feels like 'a ghost' with 'no friends and family', Father Flood arranges for her to take a night-class in bookkeeping at the local college. Eilis enjoys her studies and for the first time starts to dream of a future of her choosing, where she might work in the office of the department store. Encouraged by her new studies, Eilis attends an Irish dance held by Father Flood where she meets Tony, an Italian American plumber.

Eilis's relationship with Tony develops slowly and sweetly. They have numerous cinema and baseball dates and slowly, Eilis's thoughts 'linger' on Tony until they are engaged in a stable relationship. Through this positive relationship Eilis grows as a woman, making her own independent decisions and imagining a future of her own choosing. Tony is keen to build them a home on Long Island and aspires to a great future for them both. The relationship with Tony accelerates the changes in Eilis's character and the change from passivity to self-awareness demonstrates that Brooklyn is not only a physical setting, but a symbol of the possibility of change.

As Eilis starts to grow into the possibilities of her new life in Brooklyn, tragedy strikes, and her sister Rose dies of a secret heart condition. After some period of mourning and a low-key marriage to Tony, Eilis returns home to her mother. Initially Eilis returns for one month, but after some adjustment decides to stay longer, taking over Rose's old job at the office. Eilis finds the return to her hometown difficult; she no longer fits in with the small-town way of life, even her clothes seem to mark her as different somehow. Eilis has also kept her marriage to Tony a secret from

all of her friends and family, further reinforcing the divide in her identity. Despite these challenges, as time passes, Eilis finds people treat her with a new-found respect and she forms new relationships with old friends. Eilis’s story embodies the problem of the dual belonging; she is torn between two homes and two selves.

Eilis’s relationship with Jim Farrel is a turning point in her story. Her relationship with Jim starts quietly and cautiously, just as her relationship with Tony started. The more she spends time in Jim’s company, the less frequently she writes to Tony, and she finds herself caught between two worlds. She can imagine a life with Jim, yet the pull of her life with Tony stops her acting on her feelings for Jim. When Miss Kelly threatens to reveal Eilis’s secret, she realises she has to make a decision. Yet this time it is her decision, and she chooses to immediately return to Brooklyn and her husband, Tony.

Eilis’s journey explores the post-war migration of many Irish women seeking better prospects abroad. The story critiques the very limited roles for women in 1950s Ireland and questions the cost of progress.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
<p>‘What she would need to do ... was smile, so that they would remember her smiling.</p>	<p>This suggests that Eilis is highly aware of how she is seen by others, and that her departure is not only physical but will inevitably involve a visible transformation. The modal “<i>would need to</i>” conveys Eilis’s obligation rather than choice to smile; she’s compelled by family and by social expectation to do the right thing. This also highlights her lack of agency as a young woman in the 1950s in small-town Ireland.</p>	<p>Language features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modal verb “would need to” → Suggests obligation, not choice. • Ellipsis (“...”) → Indicates hesitation or internal conflict. • Repetition of “smile” → Highlights the act as symbolic and deliberate. <p>Tone: Bittersweet or ironic → Smiling is a necessity, not a natural response.</p> <p>Effect on reader: Evokes sympathy and highlights artificiality of social norms.</p>
<p>‘Tony was so wrapped up in the game ... it gave her a chance to let her thoughts linger on him.’</p>	<p>This suggests the tentative nature of the slowly developing relationship Eilis has with Tony. Tony’s total focus on the game gives Eilis room to think about and ‘on’ him and for</p>	<p>Language features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Wrapped up in the game” → Idiom showing absorption; he is oblivious.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
	<p>the reader to get an insight into her emotional development. The verb 'linger' suggests a focused contemplation of him and of the differences between the two of them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellipsis (“...”) → Suggests pause, mirroring drifting thoughts. • “Let her thoughts linger” → Verb “linger” conveys indulgence and longing. <p>Tone: Reflective, intimate, slightly wistful.</p> <p>Effect: Creates tension and intimacy; invites empathy for her private emotions.</p>
<p>”She has gone back to Brooklyn” her mother would say... Eilis imagined the years ahead when these words would mean less and less to the man that heard them and would come to mean more and more to herself.’</p>	<p>At the end of the novel this marks Eilis’s self-claimed future. The future orientated reference to ‘Eilis imagined years ahead’ suggests that the outcome of this decision to have ‘gone back’ is Eilis’s own decision to embark on a future of her choice. The proper noun ‘Brooklyn’ firmly gives the reader a place and shape to Eilis’s future. The repetition of ‘more and more’ emphasises the importance of Eilis’s choice to return to Brooklyn and the man there waiting for her.</p>	<p>Language features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct speech: “She has gone back to Brooklyn” → Creates immediacy and realism, grounding the imagined scenario in dialogue. • Ellipsis (“...”) → Suggests a pause, mirroring Eilis’s reflective, almost melancholic thought process. • Contrast in repetition: “less and less” vs “more and more” → Highlights the divergence between the man’s diminishing interest and Eilis’s growing emotional attachment. • Future tense (“would mean”) → Implies inevitability and foreshadows emotional consequences.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perspective shift: Moves from her mother's words to Eilis's imagination, showing her isolation and introspection. <p>Tone: Reflective, bittersweet, and slightly foreboding—underscoring inevitability and emotional complexity.</p> <p>Effect on reader: Creates empathy for Eilis's predicament, highlighting the tension between choice and consequence, and the fragility of human connections.</p>
Lesson focus		
<p>Explore how Eilis's sense of self changes between Ireland and Brooklyn.</p> <p>Learners create a timeline of Eilis's identity shifts and annotate key quotations.</p> <p>Rewrite a scene from Eilis's perspective as a diary entry.</p>		

Rose Lacey

Rose is the older sister of Eilis Lacey. Poised, confident and popular; she is a role-model for Eilis, and she is the self-sacrificing catalyst that secures Eilis's new life in Brooklyn. In facilitating Eilis's emigration, she condemns herself to a restricted lifetime of looking after their mother in small-town Ireland. As a woman in 1950s Enniscorthy, Rose has created a pleasant and respectable life for herself. She is respected, she has a good office job, and she has friends and a modest social life. By many standards Rose seems to have accomplished much for a woman of her era, however, behind this lies quiet resignation of her own desires. Rose will never have her own family, and she will spend her later days caring for their mother and keeping secrets about her own poor health. Her choice is to focus her desire on helping her sister to escape her own fate and live an independent life with opportunities.

Rose is presented through Eilis's admiring view of her older sister. Eilis is obviously proud of Rose and tells the reader that she is 'more glamorous every year' and 'has had several boyfriends'. Rose is Eilis's inspiration and role model, yet Rose is also 'single' at thirty. This suggests that Tóibín is using Rose to show the limitations that faced women of this era. It is unlikely that Rose would ever now be able to settle and have a family, and so she focuses on helping her sister to have new opportunities.

Rose's death marks a turning point in the novel. Eilis finds out that Rose has kept her heart condition hidden and has carried on leading a life of duty towards her family, focusing on the care of her mother and the support of her sister's opportunities. Tóibín uses Rose's death to explore the vulnerability of women in this era and to perhaps suggest that family duty requires sacrifice. Rose's quiet resilience and strength represents a generation of Irish women that sacrificed to support the opportunities of others.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
'More glamorous every year'..	This description of Rose's continual improvement suggests a woman who is self-possessed and successful and continues to be so. The superlative idea that she becomes 'more glamorous' as the years pass reveal what a figure of aspiration Rose is to her younger sister. Rose's beauty and potential set her apart from the other women in the small town, which perhaps makes her sacrifices more poignant.	Language features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative adjective "more glamorous" → Suggests progression and transformation, emphasizing the growing appeal of Brooklyn. • Hyperbole → "Every year" implies continuous improvement, idealizing the city and reinforcing its symbolic status as modern and exciting.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tone of admiration → Indicates aspiration and perhaps a sense of distance—Brooklyn represents opportunity but also unattainable perfection. <p>Effect on reader: Creates a sense of allure and optimism but also foreshadows tension between appearance and reality. It invites readers to question whether glamour equates to happiness.</p>
<p>‘Rose knew this too, knew that either she or Eilis would have to leave, and had decided to let Eilis go... and [Eilis] understood what Rose’s motives were.’</p>	<p>This suggests that Rose is a selfless character. The repetition of the verb ‘knew’ emphasises the clarity of her understanding of the sacrifice she is making. Rose is perceptive and this highlights her maturity and emotional intelligence. The binary structure of ‘she or Eilis’ is quietly significant when paired with the modal ‘would have to go’ as it suggests that there is little personal freedom to choose and that emigration was an economic necessity at this time. Through Eilis’s eyes, Rose is presented as quietly heroic.</p>	<p>Language features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetition of “knew” → Emphasizes certainty and inevitability, highlighting Rose’s clarity and acceptance of reality. • Ellipsis (“...”) → Suggests a pause, mirroring the weight of the decision and the emotional undercurrent. • “Had decided to let Eilis go” → The verb “let” conveys permission and sacrifice, implying Rose’s agency but also her selflessness. • Shift in perspective → Moves from Rose’s thoughts to Eilis’s understanding, showing mutual awareness and silent communication.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motives → Indicates complexity—Rose’s actions are not impulsive but deeply considered. <p>Tone: Tender, bittersweet, and quietly heroic—Rose’s sacrifice is understated but profound.</p> <p>Effect on reader: Creates admiration for Rose and empathy for Ellis, while reinforcing the novel’s exploration of choices shaped by love and circumstance.</p>
‘Rose had organised everything.’	This suggests that Rose’s defining trait is her responsibility and sense of duty towards others. The past tense verb ‘organised’ suggests organisation and competence and care for her sister. It also shows the reader how much Ellis’s life is shaped by her sister; the past tense reinforcing this influence. The abstract noun ‘everything’ suggests that the scope of Rose’s influence is total in defining Ellis’s future.	<p>Language features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short, declarative sentence → Creates a tone of certainty and control, emphasizing Rose’s competence and decisiveness. • Past perfect tense (“had organised”) → Suggests completion and reliability; Rose has already taken care of all details, reinforcing her proactive nature. • “Everything” → Hyperbolic and absolute, showing the extent of Rose’s involvement and sacrifice. <p>Tone: Practical yet poignant—Rose’s efficiency masks emotional depth and foreshadows her quiet heroism.</p>

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
		Effect on reader Creates admiration for Rose and evokes empathy for her understated sacrifice, reinforcing the novel's exploration of choices shaped by love and circumstance.
Learning focus		
<p>Explore how Rose's decision to 'organise everything' shapes the entire narrative.</p> <p>Learners trace Rose's influence on key turning points and annotate quotations like 'Rose had organised everything.'</p> <p>Research women's roles in post-war Ireland and link findings to Rose's portrayal.</p>		

Tony Fiorello

Tony is presented as the counterpoint to Eilis's hard Irish life; he is warm, fun, emotionally generous, and sincere. Tóibín creates his character through a series of simple and gentle gestures that both support and nurture Eilis. His speech is direct, unpretentious and honest which contrasts with the restrained and repressed nature of interactions Eilis has had in Ireland. When Tony wants to express his deep feeling for Eilis he simply told her, 'he loved her'. This direct and unpretentious manner grounds Tony's character in a working class Italian American identity, giving him an authenticity that Eilis finds both charming and disarming. Tony's direct emotional engagement mirrors the open opportunity and emotional freedom in Brooklyn.

Physical descriptions of Tony reinforce his presence in Eilis's life as one of stability and reliability. On their first meeting he is depicted as 'happy', 'friendly and open in his gaze'. He is attractive and confident, yet humble and old-fashioned in his courting of Eilis which makes him seem authentic and real. Tony expresses his affection for Eilis in a series of sweet and affectionate gestures: buying her sodas, walking her home, waiting for her after her class and taking her to the movies. His quiet but consistent pattern of affection and care creates a sense of security for Eilis and helps her to finally adjust to life in Brooklyn.

It is Tony that is the catalyst for Eilis's claiming of her own identity. He has big dreams and aspirations for them as a married couple and he wants to build them a house on Long Island for them and their future children to live happily in. At the start this open love and longing overwhelms Eilis, but as narrative time moves, she finds herself charmed and she begins to imagine a future of her choosing with Tony. Tony's dreams are symbolic of American ideas about self-determination and independence and these contrast with the sense of failure and fatalism in Ireland.

Tony's open emotional engagement with the future helps to highlight the internal conflict of Eilis. He represents one side of her split identity, the side that an American self might become. Even when Eilis marries Tony, she still struggles to fully commit to her actions suggesting that his purpose in the text is to help show the internal conflicts and the split identities of those that emigrate.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
'clean-cut and friendly and open in his gaze'	This suggests that Tony is honest and emotionally direct. The adjective 'clean-cut' suggests neatness and respectability and a young man who fits the stereotype of the reliable and stable all American man. The paired adjectives 'open' and 'friendly'	Language features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triplet of adjectives ("clean-cut and friendly and open") → Creates rhythm and emphasis, reinforcing Tony's wholesome and approachable nature.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
	<p>suggest his emotional availability to Eilis and the polysyndeton ‘and’ suggests balance and equality across these traits. The cumulative impact suggests that Tony is a character of sincerity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Clean-cut” → Suggests neatness, respectability, and traditional masculinity—ideal qualities in 1950s America. • “Open in his gaze” → Implies honesty and emotional availability, contrasting with the reserved Irish social norms Eilis is used to. • Connotation of simplicity and sincerity → Positions Tony as a stabilising force in Eilis’s life. <p>Tone: Warm and reassuring—this description builds trust and foreshadows Tony’s role as Eilis’s anchor in America.</p> <p>Effect on reader: Encourages admiration for Tony and positions him as a positive influence, while subtly raising questions about whether Eilis’s attraction is based on genuine love or the security he represents.</p>
<p>‘He whispered to her once more that he loved her.’</p>	<p>This suggests that Tony’s feelings are tender and gentle rather than forceful and impassioned. The verb ‘whispered’ implies a private moment of intimacy and reveals the closeness of their relationship. The time phrase ‘once more’ suggests that this is a repeated phrase which suggests the</p>	<p>Language features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb “whispered” → Suggests tenderness, secrecy, and intimacy. It contrasts with loud declarations, emphasizing privacy and emotional depth.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
	constancy and reliability of Tony’s love for Eilis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporal phrase “once more” → Indicates repetition, reinforcing Tony’s constancy and devotion. It also hints at Eilis’s need for reassurance. • Direct speech omission → The phrase paraphrases rather than quotes Tony’s words, creating a sense of narrative distance and focusing on the act rather than the exact words. • Simple declarative structure → Reflects sincerity and lack of artifice in Tony’s feelings. <p>Tone: Gentle, reassuring, and emotionally charged—suggesting both comfort and pressure for Eilis.</p> <p>Effect on reader: Creates empathy for Tony’s sincerity while inviting reflection on Eilis’s position: is her acceptance driven by love or necessity? It deepens the tension between romantic idealism and practical reality.</p>
“Marry me before you go back.”	This suggests a directness and openness to Tony’s feelings. The plea and the imperative ‘Marry’, conveys the nature of his desperation to hold on to Eilis and his fear of losing her back to Ireland. It also suggests	<p>Language features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperative mood (“Marry me”) → Direct and commanding, showing Tony’s determination and emotional intensity.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
	<p>that despite Tony’s happy confidence, he realises that there is a fragility to his relationship with Eilis and that the pull of her homeland poses a threat to him and their relationship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporal clause (“before you go back”) → Creates a sense of urgency and impending separation, highlighting the fragility of their situation. • Short sentence → Simple yet powerful, conveying raw emotion without embellishment. • Absence of modal verbs or hedging → Suggests confidence and desperation combined. Tony is certain about what he wants. <p>Tone: Passionate, urgent, and slightly anxious —Tony’s words reveal vulnerability beneath his usual confidence.</p> <p>Effect on reader: Creates empathy for Tony while intensifying the novel’s central conflict: Eilis’s struggle between duty, desire, and identity. It also foreshadows the moral complexity of her choices.</p>
<p>Learning focus</p>		
<p>Examine Tony’s Italian- American identity and how it contrasts with Eilis’s Irish background.</p> <p>Learners create a character map showing Tony’s impact on Eilis’s decisions.</p> <p>Question: Does Tony’s cultural background create tension or enrich Eilis’s experience?</p>		



Quotation	This suggests...



3. Character animations



Can you identify the names of the different characters in the videos?

Character name	Character image
	
	
	
	
	

Character name	Character image
	
	

Here are the answers.

Character name	Character image
Eilis Lacey	
Tony Fiorello	
Rose Lacey	
Father Flood	
Miss Kelly	

Character name	Character image
Mrs Kehoe	
Jim Farrell	



5. Quiz

1. What job does Eilis take before leaving Ireland?

- A) An office job
- B) Grocery store assistant
- C) Book-keeping work
- D) Department store assistant

2. Which visitor helps arrange for Eilis to emigrate to America?

- A) Miss Kelly
- B) Mrs Lacey
- C) Father Flood
- D) Rose Lacey

3. Which of the following statements are false?

- A) Eilis's journey to America is miserable.
- B) Eilis is excited by her new opportunities.
- C) Eilis is lonely on her journey.
- D) Eilis is seasick on the journey to America.

4. Why does Eilis struggle when she first arrives in Brooklyn?

- A) She finds the department store work difficult.
- B) She finds the bookkeeping class is full.
- C) She finds she is homesick.
- D) She finds herself in poor health.

5. Where does Eilis meet Tony?

- A) At the department store.
- B) At the book-keeping class.
- C) At an Irish dance.
- D) At the movies.

6. Which of these statements is true?

- A) Tony wishes Eilis to marry him because she is pregnant.
- B) Tony wishes Eilis to marry him because he is scared she won't return from Ireland.
- C) Tony wishes Eilis to marry him because he wishes to return to Ireland with her.
- D) Tony wishes Eilis to marry him because it is the proper thing to do.

7. What event draws Eilis back to Ireland?

- A) Her mother's illness.
- B) Rose's sudden death.
- C) Tony's accident.
- D) Father Flood's retirement.

8. What does Eilis feel when she goes back to Ireland?

- A) It is easy to return home.
- B) It is nice to be with old friends.
- C) It is hard to fit back in.
- D) It is easy to make new friends.

9. Which of the following statements are false?

- A) Eilis meets Jim when she takes up Rose's job.
- B) Eilis' relationship with Jim mirrors her relationship with Tony.
- C) Eilis is cautious of Jim.
- D) Eilis is attracted to Jim.

10. What does Eilis decide to do when her marriage is discovered?

- A) Return to Tony in Brooklyn.
- B) Ask Tony for a divorce.
- C) Elope with Jim.
- D) Ask Miss Kelly to keep her secret.

Quiz answers

1. What job does Eilis take before leaving Ireland?

B) Grocery store assistant

2. Which visitor helps arrange for Eilis to emigrate to America?

C) Father Flood

3. Which of the following statements are false?

B) Eilis is excited by her new opportunities.

4. Why does Eilis struggle when she first arrives in Brooklyn?

C) She finds she is homesick.

5. Where does Eilis meet Tony?

C) At an Irish dance.

6. Which of these statements is true?

B) Tony wishes Eilis to marry him because he is scared she won't return from Ireland.

7. What event draws Eilis back to Ireland?

B) Rose's sudden death.

8. What does Eilis feel when she goes back to Ireland?

C) It is hard to fit back in.

9. Which of the following statements are false?

A) Eilis meets Jim when she takes up Rose's job.

10. What does Eilis decide to do when her marriage is discovered?

A) Return to Tony in Brooklyn.

Cambridge International Education
The Triangle Building, Shaftsbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
t: +44 1223 553554
e: info@cambridgeinternational.org www.cambridgeinternational.org

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