

## Short Essay #2 Prompt

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### Overview

For this assignment, you will need to write a 1-3 page essay that focuses on James Joyce's short story, "Eveline," in his collection *Dubliners*. Like all good essays, your essay should have a thesis that is supported by textual evidence. Remember, whenever you use any information that is not common knowledge, you need to provide a citation to the source of your information. For example, that the sun is yellow is common knowledge, as is that there was an American revolutionary war. The major concepts of interpreting literature, sadly, are not common knowledge. In this class, we will be using MLA citation. More information about MLA citation can be found at the Purdue Owl website here: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html).

In essay 1, you were asked to consider just one element of fiction (plot) while considering how Joyce's plot choices might affect the values literature can provide. For this essay, you will build on that by considering the interactions of *two* elements (narration and character) with literary value.

### Prompt

In "Eveline," what do Joyce's choices regarding narration and character add to the story's meaning and value?

- Analyze how narration and character, separately and together, affect our understanding of the meaning of "Eveline" and its literary value, drawing on the list of values we have constructed as a class.
- While doing so, keep in mind two different general categories of people: parents and their adult children. Do you think those groups might read this story differently and come to different conclusions about the meaning of the story or about its literary value?

The list of values is available in the course recaps and through a link at the top of the calendar page.

**Due Date: October 4<sup>th</sup>**