

Before-reading questions

- 1 Example answer:** Enniscorthy is a small town of about 11,000 people near the south-east coast of Ireland. It has a river, and it is close to mountains and beaches. You can go walking, play golf and swim in the sea. In the 1950s, it took much longer to travel to other places like Dublin by road or rail.
- 2 Example answer:** Brooklyn was much bigger and more exciting, with more shops and more things to do. It also had people from many different countries living there. It had subway stations and was close to Manhattan, New York.
- 3 Example answer:** They often moved because there was no work at home, and they could find jobs in New York.

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1** Miss Kelly has heard that Eilis is studying bookkeeping and is good with numbers. She thinks that Eilis will be quicker than Mary.
- 2** She goes to mass at the church.
- 3** She invites Father Flood for tea. He lives in Brooklyn and might be able to find Eilis a job there.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1** Her brothers in England pay for her ticket.
- 2** It has two doors – one on Eilis’s side and one to the cabin on the other side. It is a problem later because the people in the next-door cabin stop Eilis using the bathroom by locking her door.
- 3** There is a terrible storm, the ship is rolling, and she ate a big dinner.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1** Miss Keegan lives in the basement.
- 2** It is a sale on one day in October when all nylon clothes and stockings are half price.
- 3** She feels very sad and homesick.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1** It has its own door from the street and is the biggest and warmest.
- 2** Bartocci’s are going to welcome women of colour into the store by selling Red Fox stockings, which are the stockings that they want to buy. However, some customers may be unhappy about women of colour shopping in the same store.
- 3** He is a good dancer, but he is “holding himself back” for her – which means that he does not dance as well as he could. He wants to make her feel comfortable because she does not know the steps of the dance.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1** He is a plumber.
- 2** She usually sees him three times a week, on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- 3** To be serious about someone in a relationship means that you want the relationship to last for a long time and perhaps end in marriage.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1** She worries that Tony will introduce her to his family as someone more than a girlfriend – perhaps as someone he might marry.
- 2** She wants to tell him about passing her exams. He arranged for her to study bookkeeping at Brooklyn College, so she wants him to know her good news.
- 3** They go to the beach at Coney Island.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 They want to start a building company. They already own a piece of land on Long Island, and they want to build five houses on it.
- 2 He has received the news of Rose's death from Ireland, and he has come to tell Eilis.
- 3 She is very worried about her mother because she will soon be alone. Jack and his brothers have gone to Enniscorthy for Rose's funeral, but they have to go back to their jobs in England.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 Eilis believes that it is wrong for her and Tony to have sex before they are married. At confession, they can tell the priest that they are sorry, and he can tell them that they are forgiven.
- 2 **Example answer:** Yes, because she has put a lock on the basement door to stop Eilis using it. Now Eilis will have to go through the house, and Mrs Kehoe will be able to see if she has any visitors.
- 3 She and Tony have got married secretly, and she does not want Mrs Kehoe to know.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 Nancy and George are getting married, and she wants to stay for the wedding.
- 2 Eilis met him at a dance two years earlier, and she thought that he was rude. She thought that their friend Annette was coming with them to the beach.
- 3 She has not told anyone in Enniscorthy about marrying Tony, so her life in America does not seem real. In Enniscorthy, everything is familiar and everyone knows her.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 If she tells people in America, she will have to tell people in Enniscorthy, too. She is frightened of telling her mother and Jim that she is not going to stay in Ireland and that she is already married.
- 2 She has told her that Eilis got married in Brooklyn.
- 3 She is very sad that Eilis is leaving, and she does not want Eilis to see her crying.

After-reading questions

- 1 **Example answer:** The story describes the difficulties of travelling by ship in the 1950s and the way people of colour were treated.
- 2 **Example answer:** Tony keeps talking about having children together and living on Long Island. Eilis does not want to about the future and marrying Tony because she does not know if she wants to leave Enniscorthy forever.
- 3 **Example answer:** Eilis probably does not want her mother to know because she might worry about the future and Eilis not coming home. Her mother might also not like Eilis being in a serious relationship with someone or her marrying in secret.
- 4 **Example answer:** At the beginning of the story, Eilis does what other people tell her. Miss Kelly tells her when to work and when to leave. Rose arranges for her to go to Brooklyn. Father Flood arranges her boarding house and evening classes. Later, Eilis begins to make her own decisions, and she becomes more confident. At the end of the story, she knows she has to make a very difficult decision and that anything she chooses will have some problems.
- 5 **Reader's own answer.**

Exercises

CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO

- 1 1 f 2 d 3 b 4 a 5 e 6 c
- 2 1 Eilis **recognized** the girl from Miss Kelly's shop.
 2 Eilis had to **accept** the job because it was better than nothing.
 3 In the shop, people that Miss Kelly knew were **served** first.
 4 Eilis's mother **complained** when Miss Kelly gave them yesterday's bread.
 5 A man who owned a large store in Brooklyn could **offer** Eilis a job.
 6 Rose **arranged** everything for Eilis to go to America.
 7 Eilis realized that she **had expected** to live in Enniscorthy all her life.
 8 Eilis knew that Rose and her mother **were hiding** their real feelings from her.

CHAPTER THREE

- 3 1 Mrs Kehoe's boarding house
 2 Bartocci's
 3 Enniscorthy golf club
 4 Enniscorthy
 5 a diner
 6 Brooklyn College

CHAPTER FOUR

- 4 1 As Eilis **was going** upstairs to bed, Mrs Kehoe **opened** her sitting room door.
 2 When Eilis **got** back from college, Mrs Kehoe **was waiting** for her in the hall.
 3 Eilis **was** not surprised when Miss McAdam **spoke** to her in the kitchen one evening.
 4 When they **came in**, Eilis **noticed** something change inside the store.
 5 When they **got** to the hall, they **saw** Miss McAdam and Sheila Heffernan on the other side of the room.

- 6 Eilis **noticed** that a young man across the room **was looking** at her.

CHAPTERS FIVE AND SIX

- 5 1 "I'm the oldest of four boys, and I live with my parents," Tony told her.
 2 "Would you like to come to a movie with me one evening after work?" Tony asked.
 3 "I was homesick and I did / was doing evening classes to keep busy," Eilis said.
 4 When Father Flood (had) read the letter, he told Eilis that she was amazing.
 5 Diana told Eilis that she would sell her her sunglasses.
 6 Tony said that it was going to be the best day of their lives.

CHAPTERS SEVEN AND EIGHT

- 6 1 Tony 2 Rose
 3 Eilis 4 Eilis's mother
 5 Jack 6 Eilis

CHAPTERS NINE AND TEN

- 7 At first, Eilis felt ¹ **guilty** for not being ² **pleased** to be home. Her mother was ³ **annoyed** that she did not want to keep any of Rose's clothes. Then Eilis began to enjoy being back in ⁴ **familiar** places, and her life in Brooklyn seemed less ⁵ **solid** and real. When Jim was watching her at the beach, she walked ⁶ **confidently** into the water. At the dance, he looked handsome and ⁷ **smart** and after they left, she kissed him back ⁸ **eagerly**.

ALL CHAPTERS

- 8 1 false 2 false
 3 true 4 true
 5 false 6 false
 7 true 8 false

Project work

Reader's own answers.