

Sive

Act One, Scene One

1. From what you have read so far, what do you think are the main sources of conflict between Nanna and Mena?
2. Why does Mike think Sive should not marry Sean Dota?
3. Why do you think Mike does not want Liam Scuab to go out with Sive? Do you agree with his assessment of Liam?
4. Why do you think Tomasheen approaches Mena rather than Mike? What does this choice tell us about Tomasheen's character?

Writing Task

In what way would you say that Nanna, Mena and Sive represent different generations of Irish women?

In your answer you may wish to consider some of the following: clothing, habits, work, position in the family, education, attitude to marriage and children.

Act One, Scene Two

1. How is Sean Dota represented in this scene?
2. Do you have any sympathy for Tomasheen Rua? Why/why not?
3. Outline the ways in which Tomasheen and Mena plan to isolate Sive from Liam and Nanna.

Act One, Scene Three

1. What do you think Nanna means when she says 'There is a hatchery of sin in this house'?
2. How is the tension between Mena, Tomasheen and Nanna created in this scene? You should refer to the stage directions in your answer.
3. Describe the ways in which Mena tries to persuade Sive to agree to the match

Act Two, Scene One

1. What is your impression of Liam Scuab?
2. Do you think Nanna could do more to prevent Sive being 'sold like an animal'?
3. What reasons does Mike give Nanna for agreeing to the match?
4. Do you feel any sympathy for Mike when his wife and his mother each urge him to agree with him, or do you think he shows weakness in not coming to his own decision and standing by it?

Act Two, Scene Two

1. Given the circumstances in which she found herself, do you think Sive had any option but to do something as extreme as taking her own life?
2. 'Nanna is partly responsible for Sive's death'. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer with reference to the text.
3. How do you think Sive's Death will affect the relationships between Mike, Mena and Nanna?