

Brooklyn

Section 5 – Brooklyn or Enniscorthy?

1. Eilis is seen spending time with Jim whilst we hear Tony reading his letter to her in voiceover. What effect does this have on you as a viewer?
2. Why doesn't Eilis open Tony's letter? There is no music to accompany this scene. Why do you think this is?
3. How does Eilis's first dinner with Jim compare with her first dinner with Tony?
4. When Jim's mother says that 'he won't be here alone for ever' Eilis replies 'I'm sure he won't'. How do you think Jim and his parents interpret her remark? Does it remind you of what happened when Eilis met Tony's family?
5. At her friends wedding why does the camera focus on Eilis and Jim during the vows and blessing? What do you think each of them are thinking about at this time?
6. At the dance Jim tells her that he doesn't want her to go and says he would like to ask her another question. What do you feel about Eilis's behaviour at this point? Do you feel she's being unfair to Tony? Is she being unfair to Jim? Are you sympathetic to the situation she is in?
7. Describe Eilis's confrontation with Nettles Kelly. What do you think Eilis means when she says 'I'd forgotten what this town is like'?
8. Do you think Eilis is forced into the decision to return to New York or does Mrs Kelly just help her make up her mind?
9. When Eilis tells her mother that she is returning to Brooklyn her mother says that she wants to 'Say goodbye now and only once'. What do you think she means by this?
10. How is the second voyage to New York similar to the first? How is it different?