

Brooklyn - Discussion Questions

1. Can you relate to Eilis? Why does she take such a passive role early on? Why does she go to America - and do you think she truly wants to go?
2. How is Eilis different from her sister Rose? Why does Rose encourage Eilis to emigrate?
3. Father Flood says, "Parts of Brooklyn are just like Ireland. They're full of Irish." How similar is Enniscorthy to Eilis's new neighborhood in Brooklyn? Are her prospects better in America than in Ireland?
4. How does Eilis adapt to her new home? Consider her relationship with her landlady and Father Flood's role in her life.
5. Does Tony's family share traits with Eilis's family in Ireland? In what ways do they differ?
6. After returning to Ireland, why does Eilis respond as she does to her Irish admirer? Is this out of character?
7. What events catalyze Eilis's emotional growth? Would she be a different person if she had stayed in Ireland?
8. How do you feel about the decision she makes in the end? Was it the right one?
9. What did you learn about the immigrant experience and about life in the 1950s in Brooklyn and Ireland?