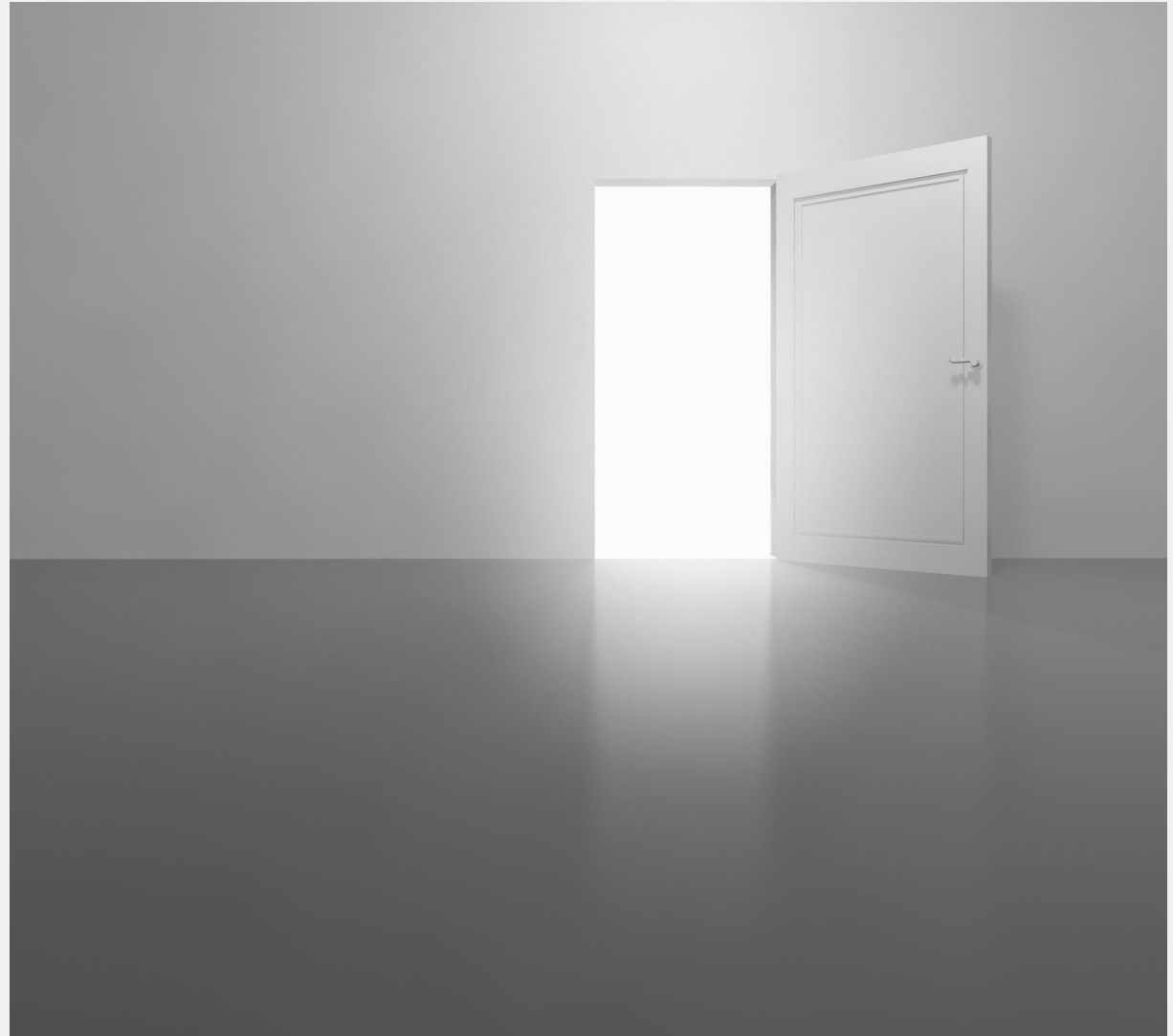


Eveline

JAMES JOYCE



The title

The title is the name of the main character.

The story is about Eveline, her life, her relationship with her father, siblings and Frank.

It focuses on her suffering in the hands of her father and the decisions she must make about her life.

***** *Decision – to leave or not to leave***

Setting

REMEMBER
When AND Where!

The story takes place in Dublin, Ireland where the main character, Eveline grows up.

It is during the early twentieth century.

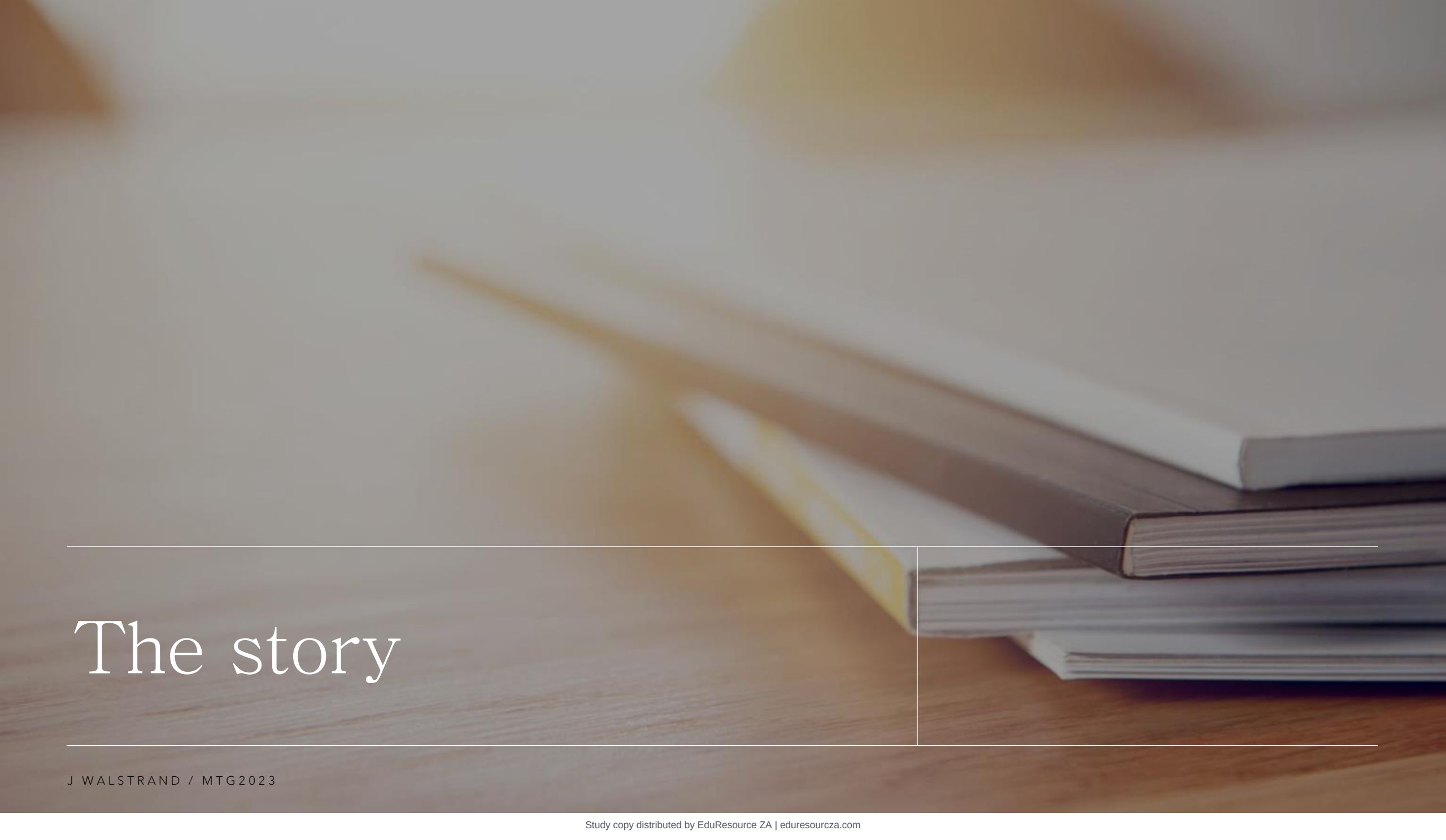
Structure and Plot Development

Exposition

Rising Action

Climax

Resolution



The story

J WALSTRAND / MTG2023

Exposition

The main character, Eveline is introduced as a troubled teenager (nineteen years old).

She looks at her surroundings, her life and her past experiences critically.

She feels that under her father's abusive conduct, she is going to suffer the way her late mother suffered.

Rising action

Eveline meets Frank who promises her a better life in Argentina than the one she is experiencing in Dublin.

She writes two letters, one to her father and another to Harry, to let them know that she is going to look for a better life.

The plan is to go board a ship with Frank and escape to another country where the two will get married and live happily ever after.

Climax

When the time comes for Eveline to leave Dublin, the idea of her mother's last days comes back to haunt her.

On arrival at the port, the ship that was bound to take her and Frank is there.

Frank is also there, and the ship is blowing the whistle, signaling its departure.

Frank holds her hand, asking her to come on board.

Her thoughts are too busy, and she cannot decide whether to board the ship or turn back home.

Resolution

Eveline feels as if this ship would drown her, and she decides to stay.

She does not move even when Frank keeps calling her.

Characterisation

Eveline

Eveline's
father

Frank

Eveline's
mother

Miss
Gavan

Harry

The
priest

Eveline

- She is a nineteen year old girl.
- She is emotionally abused by her father after the death of her mother.
- Her father and siblings do not show her love.
- She meets Frank whom she loves and believes running away with him will bring about change in her situation.
- She works at Miss Gavan's store and also suffers emotional abuse from her.
- She feels that the change of scenery will make the abuse come to an end.
- She is indecisive at the end and she does not fulfil her desire to escape when she cannot board the ship and lets Frank leave by himself

Eveline's father

- He is always drunk.
- He takes all of Eveline's wages/salary on weekends and abuses her.
- It is implied in the story that he sexually abuses Eveline.
- He is not a caring father.
- He treats his girl child differently from how he treats his boys.

Frank

- He is kind and open-hearted.
- He is a loving boyfriend.
-
- He has worked on a few ships.
- He is well-travelled.
- He can sing.
- He tries to take Eveline away from her father's abuse.
- He leaves alone when Eveline changes her mind.

Eveline's mother

- She suffers abuse in the hands of her husband.
- She teaches her children honesty and Catholicism.
- She is dead.

Miss Gavan



- She owns a shop.



- She is an employer for Eveline.



- She mistreats Eveline in front of people/customers.

Harry

- He is Eveline's brother.
- He works in a church decorating business.

Ernest

- Eveline's brother who died.

The priest

- He appears in a picture, hanging on the wall in the Hills house.
- He has moved to Melbourne.

Narrator's point of view

third-person omniscient point of view.

allows the reader to know both the internal development of the story in the mind of the protagonist and the external development in the real world.

The action is told with a rhythmical remembrance of the past so as to let the reader decide if the protagonist is doing right or wrong.

Style

The short story 'Eveline' was the advent between adolescence and maturity.

The protagonist and title character, Eveline, is largely affected by the feminist issues of the time period.

These feminist ideas are illustrated through Eveline's relationships with her family and boyfriend, as well the societal expectations, and her duties and obligations., all these describe Eveline.

She is a frightened, indecisive young woman poised between her past and her future. The story is clearly associated with details, with metonymy and synecdoche.

Themes

Different forms of death

Religion and keeping promises

Nostalgia

Women and society

Escapism

1. Different forms of death

- Death is both figuratively and literally discussed in this short story.
- People who are no more part of Eveline's life are described as though 'they are no more.'
- But this is not the case in the majority of the people who are alive but are no more in contact with her.
- She describes life before her mother's death better than what it is at present.
- She also describes those who left Dublin and never asserts her emotional response to these happenings. From this, meaning can be inferred, which is that those people die when they leave Dublin.
- She fears that if she leaves Dublin, she will be considered dead. She fears that if she elopes and gets married, her marriage will be like death, she will lose her identity and she will be no more
- . Eveline's husband will become her master and identity, and she will 'drown' in unknown seas

2. Religion and keeping promises

One of the reasons for Eveline's failure to escape is her Catholic religion.

Her Catholicism beliefs enforce in her that she should be able to make sacrifices, promises and to live in guilt.

She then sacrifices her own freedom and happiness in order to keep her promise which binds her with her (late) mother.

3. Nostalgia

Eveline's thoughts about what it means to be a 'Dubliner', make her think of liberating herself by leaving Dublin.

She feels that if she leaves, she will have to start a new life and lose her identity.

She is ready to sacrifice her life, which is a reality but does not want to sacrifice her memories.

4. Women and society

Eveline is a typical twentieth-century Dublin woman who faces the majority of the problems that were usual then.

In that society, the women had inferior value to men.

This led to the oppression of women by men.

Women were controlled by men and had no power.

Women had to be grateful that there were powerful men in their lives.

Eveline needs a male in her life who can support her emotionally and physically and she finds Frank.

Unfortunately, her doubts prevents her from breaking the chains, and she is not able to challenge the system.

5. Escapism

Eveline tries to escape from the life she has led being suppressed and abused by her father.

She believes that if she goes away, the society in Argentina will be different, and people will not judge her for her past actions (sex-related).

The escape idea attracts her, but when the time to act, she cannot do it.

Through this theme, the author conveys the message that escape does not always yield positive results and may even worsen the situation.

Tone and Mood

TONE

- Depressed
 - . This tone is used by the narrator to show the state of events surrounding Eveline's life.
- Harsh
 - This tone is used when Eveline's father and the boss address her and make their demands.

MOOD:

- ❖ # sad, emotional (initially)
- # optimistic (when a decision to elope is made)
- # remorse/guilt (at the end)