

# ENGLISH

## TOPIC: ARABY

1. 'Araby' was published in Joyce's 1914 collection DUBLINERS.
2. Joyce is an Irish writer.
3. Theme: Frustrated quest for beauty and love.
4. Araby refers to the name of a grand oriental fete held in Dublin from 14 to 19 May 1894.
5. Araby stands for- a) a world of romantic glamour and grandeur, b) the boy narrator's quest for beauty, c) the drab reality that the boy narrator finally experienced.
6. Autobiographical by nature. Joyce himself lived with his family in Dublin in 17 Richmond Street in 1894.
7. The story also begins with a description of North Richmond Street where Joyce used to play with his mates. It was a blind and quiet street. Its quietness was broken when the Christian Brothers' School set the boys free.
8. The house where Joyce lived was two storeyed.
9. The former tenant of the house was a PRIEST. He died in the back drawing room. He was a very charitable priest. In his will he had left all his money to institutions and the furniture of his house to his sister.

10. The paper covered books Joyce found there were- 'The Abott' by Walter Scott, 'The Devout Communicant', 'The Memoirs of Vidocq'. The pages of the books were curled and damp.
11. Of these books Joyce liked 'The Memoirs of Vidocq' most because its pages were yellow.
12. Behind the house there was a wild garden . in the garden there was an apple tree and few scattered bushes. In the bushes the boy narrator found a rusty bicycle pump which belonged to the late tenant.
13. Every morning the boy narrator laid on the floor in the front parlour to watch Mangan's sister.
14. When she came out on the doorstep, the boy's heart leaped. He ran to the hall, seized his books and followed her.
15. "I kept her brown figure always in my eye."- The boy narrator kept the brown figure of Mangan's sister in his eye.
16. "This happened morning after morning."- This here refers to the boy hero's watching his dream girl- Mangan's sister quietly and secretly every morning. But when he came near her, he passed her without speaking any word.
17. "Her name was like a summons to all my foolish blood."- the boy hero says this about the impact of his dream girl i.e., Mangan's sister in his life.

18. Her image accompanied me even in places most hostile to romance.”- The image of Mangan’s sister accompanied the boy hero.

19. On Saturday evening his aunt used to go for marketing.

20. Litany : church prayer.

21. As the boy accompanied his aunt on Saturdays for marketing through the flaring streets, he could experience/ hear –the jostling of drunken men or bargaining woman, curses of labourers, shrill litanies of shop boys, nasal chanting of street singers.

22. The street singers sang A COME ALL YOU, a street ballad about O’ Donovan Rossa or ballad about the troubles in their native land.

23. O’ Donovan Rossa- an Irish Fenian leader of 19<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> century.

24. “These noises converged in a single sensation of life for me.”- about the noises see question no 21.

25. “I imagined that I bore my chalice safely through a throng of foes.”- According to Christianity, the Holy Chalice / the Holy Grail refers to the vessel that Jesus used at the Last Supper to share wine with his disciples.

Here in the story the chalice is representative of Mangan’s sister. The boy hero is so obsessed with her that he thinks of her as the holy grail that he must protect. The boy imagined that he bore his chalice even in places most hostile to romance (market place).

26. "My eyes were filled with tears..." the line relates the boy narrator's crush on the girl. Part of the tension originates from the lack of actual communication between him and the girl.
27. "My body was like a harp..."- the line relates the boy narrator's crush on the girl. Here he compares his body to a harp and his crush's every move, more specifically her WORDS and GESTURES to fingers playing the same harp. The narrator actually the depth of his feelings for her. Simile.
28. "At last she spoke to me."- Mangan's sister asked him whether I was going to Araby. The boy forgot whether he answered yes or no.
29. The girl said that she could not be able to go as there would be retreat that week in her convent. While she spoke, she was turning a silver bracelet round and round her wrist. At that time her brother and two other boys were fighting for their caps.
30. Retreat : the Christian retreat refers to a definite time (from few hours in length to a month) spent away from one's normal life for the purpose of reconnecting , usually in prayer with God.
31. "I wished to annihilate the tedious intervening days."- The tedious intervening days refer to the intervening period between Mangan's sister speaking to him and his going to Araby. He wished to skip everyday to arrive at the time.

32. At night in the bedroom or by day in classroom her image came between him .

33. Freemason affair: A Freemason is a member of a large secret anti-catholic society. They use a system of secret signs in order to recognize each- other.

34. On Saturday morning he told his uncle that he wished to go to bazaar in the evening.

35. Mrs. Marcer: A neighbour. A garrulous woman. A pawnbroker's widow. She collected used stamps for some pious purpose. She came to their house that night to make gossip with his aunt. At 8 pm she set out for home.

36. At 9 pm his uncle came. He begged sorry for forgetting all about it.

37. 'The Arab's Farewell to his Stead.'- A sentimental poem of 19<sup>th</sup> century poetess Caroline Norton.

38. "I held a florin tightly in my hand."- Florins are a form of currency that originated in Florence during Renaissance.

39. The boy during his journey to Araby took a third class carriage in a deserted train. It crept onward among the RUINOUS HOUSE and over the TWINKLING RIVER. At WESTLAND RAW STATION a crowd of people tried to entrain, but the porters moved hem back saying that it was a special train for the bazaar.

40. The boy was alone in the carriage.

41. In a few minutes the train reached AN IMPOVERISHED WOODEN PLATFORM. It was then TEN MINUTES TO TEN. In front of him the magical name ARABY appeared.

42. 'I couldn't find any six penny entrance.' - it may mean that the six pence entrance was closed. So, he paid a shilling instead of sixpence entrance. It may also mean he was not ready by then. Otherwise he would know what entrance to look for. He made entry through a turnstile giving A SHILLING TO A WEARY MAN.

43. Entering he found himself in a big hall girdle at half its height by a gallery.

44. Nearly all the stalls were closed and a greater part of the bazaar was in darkness.

45. There was silence as one experiences after church prayer.

46. A few stalls were open where there were a few people.

47. Cafe chantant- A French coffee house where entertainment is provided.

48. Before a cafe chantant TWO MEN were COUNTING MONEY on a salver.

The boy listened to the fall of coins.

49. At the door of the stall a young lady was talking and laughing with TWO young gentlemen. The lady's voice did not sound encouraging as she asked the boy if he wished to buy anything. It appeared to him her sense of duty.

The boy's romantic dream was gradually getting punctured.

50. The boy looked humbly at the great jars. The jars seemed to stand like eastern guards at either side.

51. "I allowed the two pennies to fall against the sixpence in my pocket."- the boy allows his two coins to fall against the sixpence which, however, is a symbol of the boy's realisation that money that money and transaction have mirrored the ultimate Fall. He wanted to buy a gift for his beloved but it ended in disappointment as he walks away from one of the last remaining stalls. His romanticism got shattered at the face of reality.

52. After spending a shilling at the entrance he has two pennies and sixpence. With the sound of falling, the COMING OF AGE MOMENT finally comes. The word 'fall' is symbolic of his fall from the romantic world.

53. "I saw myself as a creature driven and derided by vanity and my eyes burned with anger and anguish."- upon arriving Araby the boy hero is devastated to discover that it is closing down. This means he won't be able to fulfil his Arthurian quest and buy Mangan's sister a nice gift. He is driven and derided by vanity because it is vanity that ultimately leads to his humiliation. The boy realizes that no matter how important his desires are to him, the world will not change for him or make way for his goals. The vanity refers to the narrator's belief that things will somehow work out.

By Dr. A. Rahaman.