

Araby college essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

1. How do you picture the narrator of this story? From where do you get your impressions? The narrator in “ Araby” personifies youthful idealism, fantasy, and confusion. Even in his everyday tasks he creates something fantastic, and making his way through the crowded streets carrying groceries he sees a different romantic reality: “ I imagined that I bore my chalice safely through a throng of foes” (Joyce 2). The way he romanticizes his friend Mangan’s sister goes far beyond the realm of reality, though he has little idea why he feels like he does.

When she finally becomes reality and speaks to him, he is overwhelmed by it. Yet, he confronts adult reality with full force, following the urges brought on by his burgeoning sexual awareness. By, going on the quest to Araby, his idealism and fantasy are replaced with the cold realization of adulthood and the reality of the world around him. 2. If you had to pick one main element that moves the plot forward, what would it be? Explain your answer.

The main element that moves the plot forward is the promise of the bazaar, and the narrator’s journey to get there. However, once at the bazaar, the narrator’s journey takes a disheartening turn, as he realizes that much of his youthful excitement and anticipation for the journey were misinformed. He finds the bazaar to be far less romantic than he imagined, contending with ignorant clerks that do not merit his respect or business, though this is nothing more than a statement of childish innocence being replaced with the harsh reality of adulthood. In the end, the most important part of the narrator’s journey is not actually making it to the bazaar, nor retrieving the item he promised to Mangan’s sister, but it is the actual knowledge he gained because of the journey.

3. What role does setting play in the story? Setting plays a very important role in the story. While much of the story takes place on the narrator's childhood neighborhood of North Richmond Street, it is the Araby bazaar that dominates the narrators thoughts and the story's action. The narrator describes in detail his neighborhood and the interactions between neighbors, helping create the tone of familiarity amongst neighbors.

However, there is also a disdain for the area that the narrator barely veils, and his entire quest to go to Araby seems like a reflection of his basic desire to move on from his parents' home, as well as his childhood. As a setting, Araby seems to symbolize the promise of something better that is never as good as the promise itself.