

Eveline – The Pros and Cons

“[Eveline] had consented to go away, to leave her home. Was that wise? She tried to weigh each side of the question.”

(= rational, to balance reasons)

Reasons for staying	Reasons for leaving
familiarity with the place, memories <i>One time there used to be a field there in which they used to play every evening with other people’s children.</i>	changes <i>Then a man from Belfast bought the field and built houses in it. Everything changes.</i>
her father <i>he would miss her. Sometimes he could be very nice.</i>	her father <i>She sometimes felt herself in danger of her father’s violence. he had begun to threaten her [...] she had nobody to protect her.</i>
	Other people left, too <i>the Waters had gone back to England. [The priest] is in Melbourne now. [Frank] had fallen on his feet in Buenos Ayres.</i>
home <i>In her home anyway she had shelter and food. Home! She looked round the room, reviewing all its familiar objects</i>	new home <i>But in her new home [...] it would not be like that. Then she would be married – she, Eveline.</i>
familiar people <i>she had those whom she had known all her life about her.</i>	new acquaintances, respect <i>People would treat her with respect then.</i>
the two young children <i>[There are] two young children who had been left to her charge.</i>	
hard work <i>It was hard work – a hard life – but now that she was about to leave it she did not find it a wholly undesirable life.</i>	hard work <i>Of course she had to work hard, both in the house and at business. She had hard work to keep the house together.</i>
	Miss Gavan (in the Stores) <i>Miss Gavan would be glad. She had always had an edge on her.</i>
	respect <i>People would treat her with respect then. She would not be treated as her mother had been.</i>
	arguments about money <i>the invariable squabble for money on Saturday nights</i>
Frank <i>a sailor chap he would drown her</i>	Frank <i>very kind, manly, open-hearted Frank would save her. He would give her life, perhaps love, too. But she wanted to live. Why should she be unhappy? She had a right to happiness.</i>
the promise to her mother <i>her promise to keep the house together as long as she could</i>	her mother <i>dead</i>

“She set her white face to him, passive, like a helpless animal. Her eyes gave him no sign of love or farewell or recognition.”

(= irrational, the decision to stay)