

"Araby" by James Joyce

### **Questions for Interpretation**

1. Judging from the games the boys play, how old do you think the narrator is?
2. What is the mood of the story? How does Joyce establish it in the first few pages?
3. Would you describe the narrator's feelings toward Mangan's sister as realistic or romantic? Explain.
4. Why does the word Araby contain so much meaning for the narrator? Discuss the possibilities the word represents to him.
5. How are the results of the trip to Araby foreshadowed?
6. Why is the uncle late coming home Saturday night?
7. Why does he not buy anything at the young lady's booth?

### **Quotations to Discuss**

- "We walked through the flaring streets, jostled by drunken men and bargaining women, amid the curses of labourers, the shrill litanies of shop-boys who stood on guard by the barrels of pigs' cheeks, the nasal chanting of street-singers. . . .These noises converged in a single sensation of life for me: I imagined that I bore my chalice safely through a throng of foes."
- "Gazing up into the darkness I saw myself as a creature driven and derided by vanity; and my eyes burned with anguish and anger."