

# "The Boarding House"

James Joyce



## 18. THE BOARDING HOUSE

-James Joyce

### SUMMARY AND CENTRAL IDEA

"The Boarding House" is a social story written by James Joyce. The writer deals with the experience of adolescence. The story is about an Irish middle class family living in Dublin. Mrs. Mooney, one of the main characters of the story, was a butcher's daughter. She was a very confident and independent woman. She was married to her father's foreman (helper). After marriage she started a butcher's shop which she ran successfully. But her husband was very stupid and drunkard. He drank all the time and finished most of the property. He fell into a heavy debt. He quarrelled with his wife and sometimes attacked her with a cleaver. So she had to go to neighbour's house to sleep. Therefore she got divorced from her husband and opened a boarding house where many tourists, office workers, artists would come to stay. Mrs. Mooney had a son and a daughter. daughter, Polly Mooney was a beautiful girl of 19. She fell in love with Mr. Doran, one of the young boys living at the boarding house. Mrs. Mooney suspected their relation but kept quiet about activities. One day she asked Miss Polly about went to Mr. Doran's room and informed him that her mother had known their secret relation.

Mr. Doran felt in confused, not knowing what to do. But in fact, he was not in mind of marrying Polly, she was not educated and her language was not good. She was the daughter of a butcher and her boarding house had no good fame. On the other hand, he was from a gentle family and he had a good job. He thought that if he married her all his friends would laugh at him. Miss Polly began to weep but he asked her not to lose patience. At the same time, the maid (servant) came in his room and said that Mrs. Mooney wanted to talk to him. Wearing a coat, he went to see her. Miss Polly sat alone in the room thinking about what he and her mother would do. After sometime, her mother called her and said that Mr. Doran wanted to speak to her. Thus, the story ends in suspense. We don't know what decision has been made. However, we can say that Mr. Doran must have agreed to marry Miss Polly.

### IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. How does Mrs. Mooney trap Doran on her trail?
2. Draw the character of Mooney/Doran/Polly.

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

### 1. 2075 SET A Q. NO. 27

Sketch the character of Mrs Mooney. [3]

- Mrs. Mooney is the bold female character in the story. Quite realistic, she represents thousands of the women who show themselves up when time demands. Though female, she displays her masculine behavior. She educates her children and makes their future clean. Without male's support, she starts her hotel in which she monitors the ill-intentioned youths too. No one is there to question her honor and dignity. Thus, Mrs. Mooney as the protagonist of the story, is really tactful and a woman of wit and passion. We don't even find out the secret until Mrs. Mooney notices that something is going on between Mr. Doran, a tenant in her boarding house and Polly, her daughter. We should have known from the start that she'd be in control of things but we don't. She is, thus, so strategic. This strategy has exactly the effect she intends because it starts to get Polly and Mr. Doran together. They know she knows about them, and they know she will pounce, they just didn't know when. Another character of Mooney is her role of the parent. Does her monitoring make her a good parent? Yes. Mooney has her own compulsion. She has the duty to manage the children's life. She knows that she is the hotel owner and butcher's wife. And her surrounding is Dublin where everyone knows about everyone else. If Mooney has not adopted this strategy of trapping Doran, It may be really difficult for her to find a good husband for Polly. She actually wants Mr. Doran to marry Polly because she knows that it's probably a better marriage than Polly will get otherwise. Mrs. Mooney is a woman of determination and courage. She is so strong both in her belief and action. Mooney is not nervous when she breaks up with her husband, not hesitant to open her own business, and Mrs. Mooney isn't even nervous when she confronts Polly and then Mr. Doran. She plans the whole thing out, so she has time to sit in her rocking chair before she talks to Polly and Mr. Doran. She is a masked character, we know her only when she unfolds her mask. Her cool, calm, and collected natures help us see through her argument that the whole thing is about saving her daughter's honor. The real thing she's interested in is getting Polly hitched and off her hands. The fact that she uses the phrase, "sure was she would win" two separate times pretty much gives it away that Mrs. Mooney doesn't want to resolve a matter or have a conversation or look out for Polly's well-being: she wants a victory. The real question that we should ask is whether, at the end of the story, there's really much change between Mrs. Mooney as butcher's wife and Mrs. Mooney as an owner of her own boarding house who takes down Mr. Doran. Even though Joyce doesn't actually reveal the outcome of the argument with Mr. Doran, we find Mooney as assertive and dominating the situation. In short, Mrs. Mooney is such a bold character that moves in each difficulty and her each move makes her victorious.

## **2. 2075 SET B Q. NO. 2D**

Sketch the character of Mrs Mooney? [3]

- Please refer to **2075 SET A Q. NO. 2F**

## **3. 2074 PARTIAL D Q. NO. 2F**

Sketch the character of Mrs. Mooney.

- Please refer to **2075 SET A Q. NO. 2F**

## **4. 2073 SET D Q. NO. 2A**

How did Mrs Mooney prove herself bold, determined and imposing in the story "The Boarding House"? [3]

- Mrs. Mooney proved herself bold, determined and imposing in the story "The Boarding House". She left her drunkard husband and sold the shop and opened her own boarding house. She ran the hotel successfully. Mooney also dealt with the boys who visited her boarding house and tried to use Polly. More importantly her boldness was manifested when she solved the case of Mr. Doran and Miss Polly. She trapped Mr. Doran for her daughter.

## **5. 2072 SET E Q. NO. 2F**

Briefly sketch the character of Polly Mooney. [3]

- Polly Mooney is one of the central characters in the story, "The Boarding House" by James Joyce. The story takes a shift to Polly from her mother's determination and boarding house. Thus, Polly dominates the other idea by displaying juvenile personality. Polly is Mrs. Mooney's only daughter so beautiful to look at. She is physically slim. A nineteen year old Polly is seen enchanting with her soft light hair, small full mouth, grey-green eyes and soft voice. She looks like Madonna. Polly is frank in nature and flirts with the sports youth in her mother's boarding house. She is an adolescent thus displays her teenage etiquette. She never can calculate the consequence behind her relations with the

youths in the hotel. She is tender and emotionally weak. She easily becomes the friend of the males. Her English is shaky and she is not educated. Polly keeps a relationship with Doran which later on puts her into great difficulty. She is the realistic character who represents thousands of other girls in Dublin. She displays her innocence and faithful love to someone else. Unlike Mr. Mooney, Polly can't think far and wide about what her problem is. She is the character who has been the victim of her situation: the hotel, her frequent visit with Doran during her daily chores and her adolescent age. But Polly gets sympathy from her readers since she has her mother at the back. Surprisingly is the fact that Polly never feels her mother at her back. She acts, and such actions are shaped and directed by her own mind and own emotion. To sum up, Polly is a dominant character in the story who suffers and her sufferings are her own inventions. Finding Polly wiping tears in front of the mirror, reader consoles with his own supposition that Doran would marry her.

#### 6. 2071 SET D Q NO. 12B

How does Mrs. Mooney succeed in her mission at the end? Explain. [3]

- Mrs. Mooney, a bold and clever woman in James Joyce's Story "The Boarding House", succeeds in her mission of opening the boarding house, and settling her daughter Polly down. Mrs. Mooney, at last fulfills her responsibility by solving the problems of her daughter. Polly has an affair with one of the guests in her mother's boarding house, namely Mr. Doran. He wants to run away leaving Polly there. This creates problems in the boarding house for Polly and her mother. But the tactical Mrs. Mooney solves her problem and succeeds in her mission. Mrs. Mooney first makes Doran her guest in her boarding house. Then she monitors the development. When Mrs. Mooney learns that her daughter is having an affair with Mr. Doran, a man in his mid-thirties who has worked in a Catholic wine-merchant's office for many years, she grabs the moment. Mrs. Mooney bides her time before she intervenes; strongly implying that she is deliberately trying to trap Mr. Doran. Making her position clear, Mrs. Mooney talks to Mr. Doran demands his marriage to Polly. Though Mr. Doran nervously contemplating the possible loss of his due to the affair, he can't leave Polly. He bemoans the girl's lower-class bad vulgarities of speech. The story closes with Mooney calling Polly down so that Mr. Doran speak to her on the one hand and Polly being happy on the mirror, dreaming and calculating her future with Mr. Doran.

#### 7. 2070 SUPP SET A Q. NO. 12

How did Mrs. Mooney solve the problem of her daughter and fulfill her responsibility? [3]

- Please refer to **2071 SET D Q. NO. 12 B**

**[3] 8. 2070 SUPP SET B Q. NO. 12 A**

Briefly sketch the character of Mr. Mooney. [3]

- Please refer to **2075 SET A Q. NO. 2F**

**9. 2070 SET D Q. NO 12F**

Do you think Mr. Doran married Polly? Explain. [3]

- I think so. Though, James Joyce leaves the story open ended, we have plenty of clues left by the narrator. Mr. Doran and Polly live in a strictly restricted community in Dublin. Everyone knows about everyone else. They have the social stigmas to overcome. Their affair has really been known in Dublin. Later, Doran, because of his high status and education, wants to leave Polly. But Mrs. Mooney, Polly's mother, is so intelligent that she thinks of putting Doran on the trial. Doran gets entangled. He visits a bishop who tells him that he has done a crime. Doran, so caught between his thoughts of marrying and leaving, Polly fails to make a decision. When reckoned, he finds no evidence in his favor. He, at the same time, knows that he loves Polly. Amid such a situation, Polly threatens to take her own life. Doran seems really trapped. When Mrs. Mooney finishes her talk with Doran, she calls Polly and informs that Doran wants to talk to her. At the very time Polly is seen driving her wet cheeks with tears, beautifying on the mirror and dreaming of her future with Doran. These circumstances in the story convince us that Doran married Polly.

## 10. 2069 PARTIAL Q. NO. 12E

Briefly sketch the character of Polly Mooney. [3]

- Please refer to **2072 SET E Q. NO. 2F**

## 11. 2060 Q. NO. 10F

Write an interpretation of the story, "The Boarding House". [3]

- "The Boarding House", a short-story by modern novelist and short story writer James Joyce is a story of adolescence. With his story writing device, stream of consciousness, the narrator enters into the mind of Miss Polly Mooney, an adolescent in the story. Polly is in her late teens, who displays her immaturity in the story. She is not calculative about the consequences of her relationship with Doran. Love affair between Polly and Doran becomes hesitant and Mooney's tactics reflect the social standards, public perceptions and formalities. James Joyce as a realistic writer highlights these social stigmas and standards in the story. Again, the story portrays a strong determined woman Mrs. Mooney who breaks all the stereotypes that females need men. In short, the story speaks the realities of adolescents on the one hand and exposes a place where "everyone knows everyone else's business". Thus the story is a microcosm of Dublin which every Society is the part

## 12. 2059 Q. NO. 20

How do you think Mrs. Mooney settled with Mr. Moran about Polly? Did Mr. Doran marry Polly or pay out compensation? [3]

- I think Mrs. Mooney settled with Mr. Doran about Polly with wit. As a mature woman, Mrs. Mooney must have settled the matter with a lot of calculations. First of all, she might have convinced Doran for marriage. Mrs. Mooney must have reminded him about their affairs. She knows that Doran is a man of education and honor. He is matured. Mooney might be assured that such people do not betray their beloved. So Mooney might have put forward the marriage proposal. While doing so Mooney must have informed him about her nature. She must have told him how much she is worried about Polly's prestige. By giving examples of other women who forgot the prestige for money, Mrs. Mooney must have informed him that she is not of such type. This perhaps would prepare Doran to accept Polly. If this didn't help, she must have told him that she would take some legal actions against him. Mrs. Mooney perhaps settled Mr. Doran with Polly. I think Doran married Polly. Mrs. Mooney trapped him with a tactical game of obligation. She was also rigid on her principles. She was not the woman who would forget the matter by compensation. In the story, it is also told that Polly was making plans for the future by looking in the mirror and managing her hair and dress. Thus, Doran

must have married her as he knows that he has an affair with Polly and Priest told him he needed reparation.

## LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

### 13. 2076 SET B Q.NO.3B

Summarise the story. 'The Boarding House' in your own words, avoiding repetition and other unnecessary words. [10]

- After a difficult marriage with a drunken husband that ends in separation, Mrs. Mooney opens a boarding house to make a living. Her son, Jack, and daughter, Polly, live with her in the house, which is filled with clerks from the city, as well as occasional tourists and musicians. Mrs. Mooney runs a strict and tight business and is known by the lodgers as "The Madam." Polly, who used to work in an office, now stays at home at her mother's request, to amuse the lodgers and help with the cleaning. Surrounded by so many young men, Polly inevitably develops a relationship with one of them, Mr. Doran. Mrs. Mooney knows about the relationship, but instead of sending Polly back to work in the city, she monitors its developments. Polly becomes increasingly uncomfortable with her mother's lack of intervention, but Mrs. Mooney waits until the right moment to intercede. First she speaks awkwardly with Polly, then arranges to speak with Mr. Doran on a Sunday morning. Mrs. Mooney looks forward to her confrontation, which she intends to "win" by defending her daughter's honor and convincing Mr. Doran to offer his hand in marriage. Waiting for the time to pass, Mrs. Mooney



figures the odds are in her favor, considering that Mr. Doran, who has worked for a wine merchant for thirteen years and garnered much respect, will choose the option that least harms his career. Meanwhile, Mr. Doran anguishes over the impending meeting with Mrs. Mooney. As he clumsily grooms himself for the appointment, he reviews the difficult confession to his priest that he made on Saturday evening, in which he was harshly reproved for his romantic affair. He knows he can either marry Polly or run away, the latter an option that would ruin his sound reputation. Convincing himself that he has been duped, Mr. Doran bemoans Polly's unimpressive family, her ill manners, and her poor grammar, and wonders how he can remain free and unmarried. In this vexed moments Polly enters the room and threatens to end her life out of unhappiness. In her presence, Mr. Doran begins to remember how he was bewitched by Polly's beauty and kindness, but he still wavers about his decision. Uneasy, Mr. Doran comforts Polly and departs for the meeting, leaving her to wait in the room. She rests on the bed crying for a while, neatens her appearance, and then nestles back in the bed, dreaming of her possible

#### **14. 2076 PARTIAL E Q. NO. 3A**

Narrate the story 'The Boarding House'. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

#### **15. 2075 GIE Q. NO. 3B**

Summarize the story "The Boarding House" at least in three paragraphs. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

#### **16. 2075 PARTIAL D Q. NO. 3B**

What was the main problem in the relation between Mr. Doran and Polly and how did Mrs. Mooney settle her daughter's relation with Mr. Doran? [10]

- The two dominant characters in the story, "The Boarding House" had an affair. Mr. Doran, a guest in the boarding house, kept relations with Miss Polly, the beautiful daughter of Mrs. Mooney. When all the people in the boarding house knew about it, Mr. Doran and Miss Polly had a problem. The issue of marriage became a real problem between them. Miss Polly thought of committing suicide if Mr. Doran didn't marry her. On the other hand, Mr. Doran wanted to be free from there. He was afraid of her family status. He was also afraid of his friends, boss and parents. He was afraid of his sin. He was also afraid of her poor English. But this problem was tactfully solved by Mrs. Mooney. Mr. Mooney is the bold female character in the story. Quite realistic, she represents thousands of the women who show themselves up when time demands. Though female, she displays her masculine behavior: she educates her children and makes for them their future clean. Without male's support, she starts her hotel in which she monitors the ill-intentioned youths too. No one is there to question her honor and dignity. Thus, Mrs. Mooney, as the protagonist of the story, is really tactful and a woman of wit and passion. We don't even find out the secret until Mrs. Mooney notices that something is going on between Mr. Doran, a tenant in her boarding house and Polly, her daughter. We should have known from the start that she'd be in control of things but we don't. She is, thus, so strategic. This strategy has exactly the effect she intends because it starts to get Polly and Mr. Doran together. They know she knows about them, and they know she will pounce, they just didn't know when. Mooney has the role of the parent. Does her monitoring make her a good parent? Yes. Mooney has her own compulsion. She has the duty to manage the children's life. She knows that she is the hotel owner and butcher's wife. And her surrounding is Dublin where everyone knows about everyone else. If Mooney has not adopted this strategy of trapping Doran, It may be really difficult for her to find a good husband for Polly. She actually wants Mr. Doran to marry Polly because she knows that it's probably a better marriage than Polly will get otherwise. Mrs. Mooney is the woman of determination and courage. She is so strong both in her beliefs and actions. Mooney is not nervous when she breaks up with her husband, not hesitant to open her own business, and Mrs. Mooney isn't even nervous when she confronts Polly and then Mr. Doran. She plans the whole thing out, so she has time to sit in her rocking chair before she talks to Polly and Mr. Doran. She is a masked character, we know her only when she unfolds her mask. Mrs. Mooney, at last fulfills her responsibility by solving the problems of her daughter. Polly has an affair with one of the guests in her mother's boarding house namely Mr. Doran. He wants to run away leaving Polly there. This creates the problems in the boarding house for Polly and her mother. But the tactical Mrs. Mooney solves her problem and succeeds in her mission. Mrs. Mooney first makes Doran her guest in her boarding house. Then she monitors the development. When Mrs. Mooney learns that her daughter is having an affair with Mr. Doran, a man in his mid-thirties who has worked in a Catholic wine-merchant's office for many years, she grabs the moment. Mrs. Mooney bides her time before she intervenes, strongly implying that she is deliberately trying to trap Mr. Doran. Making her position clear, Mrs. Mooney talks to Mr. Doran demanded that he marry Polly. Though Mr. Doran nervously contemplates the possible loss of his job due to the affair, He can't leave Polly. He also bemoans the girl's lower-class background and vulgarities of speech. The story closes with Mrs. Mooney calling Polly down that Mr. Doran can speak to her on the one hand Polly being happy on the mirror, dreaming calculating her future with Mr. Doran

"Mrs Mooney achieved success in her business with her straightforward nature, hard word determination". Explain how these characters helped in promoting her business. (The House) [10]

- Mrs. Mooney got success in her business be her straight forward nature, hard word, boldness an determination". Mooney's bold and straightforward nature helps her promote her business. Though there was a quarrel between Mr. Mooney and herself, she manages to sell her father's butcher's shop and open her own hotel Mrs. Mooney had a son and a daughter. Her daughter, Polly Mooney was a beautiful girl of 19. She fell in love with Mr. Doran, one of the young boys living at the boarding house. Mrs. Mooney suspected their relation but kept quiet watching their activities. One day she asked Miss Polly about went to Mr. Doran's room and informed him that her mother had known their secret relation. She tackles this successfully because of her determination and boldness. Mr. Doran fell in confusion not knowing what to do. In fact, he was not in mind of marrying Polly, she was not educated and her language was not good. She was the daughter of a butcher and her boarding house had no good fame. On the other hand, he was from gentle family and he had a good job. He thought that if he married her all his friends would laugh at him. Miss Polly began to weep but he asked her not to lose patience. At this time too Mrs. Mooney intervenes and solves the case. In short, Mrs. Mooney's straightforward nature, boldness and determination make her successful. She manages an educated man for her daughter when she doubts the youth who visit her boarding house for Polly. She has sent her son to the army and for herself she has opened a boarding house. Because of such boldness of Mooney, people and her guests call her as the Madam.

### **18. 2073 PARTIAL A Q. NO. 3B**

Summarise the story 'The Boarding House' in about 200 words. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

### **19. 2073 PARTIAL W Q. NO. 3B**

Sketch the character of Mrs. Mooney.[10]

- Please refer to **2075 SET A Q. NO. 21**

### **20. 2072 SET C Q. NO. 3B**

Describe Mrs. Mooney. How did she solve the problem of Miss Polly, her daughter and Mr. Doran? [10]

- Mr. Moony is the bold female character in the story. Quite realistic, she represents thousands of the women who show themselves up when time demands. Though female, she displays her masculine behavior: she educates her children and makes for them their future clean. Without male's support, she starts her hotel in which she monitors the ill-intentioned youths too. No one is there to question her honor and dignity. Thus, Mrs. Mooney, as the protagonist of the story, is really tactful and a woman of wit and passion. We don't even find out the secret until Mrs. Mooney notices that something is going on between Mr. Doran, a tenant in her boarding house and Polly, her daughter. We should have known from the start that she'd be in control of things but we don't. She is, thus, so strategic. This strategy has exactly the effect she intends because it starts to get Polly and Mr. Doran together. They know she knows about them, and they know she will pounce, they just didn't know when. Mooney has the role of the parent. Does her monitoring make her a good parent? Yes. Mooney has her own compulsion. She has the duty to manage the children's life. She knows that she is the hotel owner and butcher's wife. And her surrounding is Dublin where everyone knows about everyone else. If Mooney has not adopted this strategy of trapping Doran, It may be really difficult for her to find a good husband for Polly. She actually wants Mr. Doran to marry Polly because she knows that it's probably a better marriage than Polly will get otherwise. Mrs. Mooney is the woman of determination and courage. She is so strong both in her beliefs and actions. Mooney is not nervous when she breaks up with her husband, not hesitant to open her own business, and Mrs. Mooney isn't even nervous when she confronts Polly and then Mr. Doran. She plans the whole thing out, so she has time to sit in her rocking chair before she talks to Polly and Mr. Doran. She is a masked character, we know her only when she unfolds her mask. Mrs. Mooney, at last fulfills her responsibility by solving the problems of her daughter. Polly has an affair with one of the guests in her mother's boarding house namely Mr. Doran. He wants to run away leaving Polly there. This creates the problems in the boarding house for Polly and her mother. But the tactical Mrs. Mooney solves her problem and succeeds in her mission. Mrs. Mooney first makes Doran her guest in her boarding house. Then she monitors the development. When Mrs. Mooney learns that her daughter is having an affair with Mr. Doran, a man in his mid-thirties who has worked in a Catholic wine-merchant's office for many years, she grabs the moment. Mrs. Mooney bides her time before she intervenes, strongly implying that she is deliberately trying to trap Mr. Doran. Making her position clear, Mrs. Mooney talks to Mr. Doran demanded that he marry Polly. Though Mr. Doran nervously contemplates the possible loss of his job due to the affair, He can't leave Polly. He also bemoans the girl's lower-class background and vulgarities of speech. The story closes with Mrs. Mooney calling Polly down that Mr. Doran can speak to her on the one hand Polly being happy on the mirror, dreaming calculating her future with Mr. Doran

### 21. 2072 SET D Q. NO. 3B

Describe Mrs. Mooney. How did she solve the problem of her daughter? [10]

- Mr. Moony is the bold female character in the story. Quite realistic, she represents thousands of the women who show themselves up when time demands. Though female, she displays her masculine behavior: she educates her children and makes for them their future clean. Without male's support, she starts her hotel in which she monitors the ill-intentioned youths too. No one is there to question her honor and dignity. Thus, Mrs. Mooney, as the protagonist of the story, is really tactful and a

woman of wit and passion. We don't even find out the secret until Mrs. Mooney notices that something is going on between Mr. Doran, a tenant in her boarding house and Polly, her daughter. We should have known from the start that she'd be in control of things but we don't. She is, thus, so strategic. This strategy has exactly the effect she intends because it starts to get Polly and Mr. Doran together. They know she knows about them, and they know she will pounce, they just didn't know when. Mooney has the role of the parent. Does her monitoring make her a good parent? Yes. Mooney has her own compulsion. She has the duty to manage the children's life. She knows that she is the hotel owner and butcher's wife. And her surrounding is Dublin where everyone knows about everyone else. If Mooney has not adopted this strategy of trapping Doran, It may be really difficult for her to find a good husband for Polly. She actually wants Mr. Doran to marry Polly because she knows that it's probably a better marriage than Polly will get otherwise. Mrs. Mooney is the woman of determination and courage. She is so strong both in her beliefs and actions. Mooney is not nervous when she breaks up with her husband, not hesitant to open her own business, and Mrs. Mooney isn't even nervous when she confronts Polly and then Mr. Doran. She plans the whole thing out, so she has time to sit in her rocking chair before she talks to Polly and Mr. Doran. She is a masked character, we know her only when she unfolds her mask. Mrs. Mooney, at last fulfills her responsibility by solving the problems of her daughter. Polly has an affair with one of the guests in her mother's boarding house namely Mr. Doran. He wants to run away leaving Polly there. This creates the problems in the boarding house for Polly and her mother. But the tactical Mrs. Mooney solves her problem and succeeds in her mission. Mrs. Mooney first makes Doran her guest in her boarding house. Then she monitors the development. When Mrs. Mooney learns that her daughter is having an affair with Mr. Doran, a man in his mid-thirties who has worked in a Catholic wine-merchant's office for many years, she grabs the moment. Mrs. Mooney bides her time before she intervenes, strongly implying that she is deliberately trying to trap Mr. Doran. Making her position clear, Mrs. Mooney talks to Mr. Doran demanded that he marry Polly. Though Mr. Doran nervously contemplates the possible loss of his job due to the affair, He can't leave Polly. He also bemoans the girl's lower-class background and vulgarities of speech. The story closes with Mrs. Mooney calling Polly down that Mr. Doran can speak to her on the one hand Polly being happy on the mirror, dreaming calculating her future with Mr. Doran

## **22. 2072 SET E Q. NO. 3B**

How did Miss Polly help her mother in the Boarding House? Did her mother solve her problem positively Explain. [10]

- Miss Polly is an adolescent girl in the story "The Boarding House." In the beginning she joined typing, but later one when her mother knew that the father was just following her, Mrs. Mooney asked her daughter to assist her in the boarding house. Polly, then, began to help her mother in the hotel by serving the guests. She frankly talked with the youths in the hotel. They liked her frivolous nature. She also served Mr. Doran by making his dinner warm when he came late. But the youths in

the boarding house tried to flirt with Polly. When Mooney knew about it she gave Doran a shelter which again put Polly in a difficult mode of her life. However, Mrs. Mooney solved the problem tactfully; Polly had an affair with one of the guests in her mother's boarding house, namely Mr. Doran. He wanted to run away leaving Polly there. This creates problems in the boarding house for Polly and her mother. But the tactical Mrs. Mooney solved her problem and succeeded in her mission. Mrs. Mooney first made Doran her guest in her boarding house. Then she monitored the development. When Mrs. Mooney learned that her daughter was having an affair with Mr. Doran, a man in his mid-thirties who had worked in a Catholic wine-merchant's office for many years, she grabbed the moment. Mrs. Mooney had her time before she intervened; strongly implying that she was deliberately trying to trap Mr. Doran. Making her position clear, Mrs. Mooney talked to Mr. Doran demanding that he marry Polly. Though Mr. Doran nervously contemplated the possible loss of his job due to the affair, He could not leave Polly. He also bemoaned the girl's lower-class background and vulgarities of speech. The story ended with Mrs. Mooney calling Polly down so that Mr. Doran could speak to her on the one hand and Polly being happy in the mirror, dreaming and calculating her future with Mr. Doran. She trapped Doran on her trial and solved Polly's problem at last successfully.

### **23. 2072 PARTIAL SET A Q. NO. 3B**

Describe Mrs. Mooney. How did she grow her business and how did she solve the problem of Miss Polly?

- Mr. Mooney is the bold female character in the story. Quite realistic, she represents thousands of the women who show themselves up when time demands. Though female, she displays her masculine behavior: she educates her children and makes for them their future clean. Without male's support, she starts her hotel in which she monitors the ill-intentioned youths too. No one is there to question her honor and dignity. Thus, Mrs. Mooney, as the protagonist of the story, is really tactful and a woman of wit and passion. We don't even find out the secret until Mrs. Mooney notices that something is going on between Mr. Doran, a tenant in her boarding house and Polly, her daughter. We should have known from the start that she'd be in control of things but we don't. She is, thus, so strategic. This strategy has exactly the effect she intends because it starts to get Polly and Mr. Doran together. They know she knows about them, and they know she will pounce, they just didn't know when. Mooney has the role of the parent. Does her monitoring make her a good parent? Yes. Mooney has her own compulsion. She has the duty to manage the children's life. She knows that she is the hotel owner and butcher's wife. And her surrounding is Dublin where everyone knows about everyone else. If Mooney has not adopted this strategy of trapping Doran, It may be really difficult for her to find a good husband for Polly. She actually wants Mr. Doran to marry Polly because she knows that it's probably a better marriage than Polly will get otherwise. Mrs. Mooney is the woman of determination and courage. She is so strong both in her beliefs and actions. Mooney is not nervous when she breaks up with her husband, not hesitant to open her own business, and Mrs. Mooney isn't even nervous when she confronts Polly and then Mr. Doran. She plans the whole thing out, so she has

time to sit in her rocking chair before she talks to Polly and Mr. Doran. She is a masked character, we know her only when she unfolds her mask. Mrs. Mooney, at last fulfills her responsibility by solving the problems of her daughter. Polly has an affair with one of the guests in her mother's boarding house namely Mr. Doran. He wants to run away leaving Polly there. This creates the problems in the boarding house for Polly and her mother. But the tactical Mrs. Mooney solves her problem and succeeds in her mission. Mrs. Mooney first makes Doran her guest in her boarding house. Then she monitors the development. When Mrs. Mooney learns that her daughter is having an affair with Mr. Doran, a man in his mid-thirties who has worked in a Catholic wine-merchant's office for many years, she grabs the moment. Mrs. Mooney bides her time before she intervenes, strongly implying that she is deliberately trying to trap Mr. Doran. Making her position clear, Mrs. Mooney talks to Mr. Doran demanded that he marry Polly. Though Mr. Doran nervously contemplates the possible loss of his job due to the affair, He can't leave Polly. He also bemoans the girl's lower-class background and vulgarities of speech. The story closes with Mrs. Mooney calling Polly down that Mr. Doran can speak to her on the one hand Polly being happy on the mirror, dreaming calculating her future with Mr. Doran

#### **24. 2072 PARTIAL SET B Q. NO. 3B**

Retell the story of Boarding House. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

#### **25. 2071 SUPP Q. NO. 13B**

Sketch the character of Mrs. Mooney. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

#### **26. 2071 SET C Q. NO. 3 B**

Retell the story "The Boarding House". [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**



## 27. 2071 PARTIAL SET A Q. NO. 13 B

Summarize the story "The Boarding House". [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

## 28. 2069 PARTIAL Q. NO. 13 OR

Imagine that you are Mr. Doran. Now rewrite the story of 'The Boarding House.' [10]

- I was one of the guests in Mrs. Mooney's boarding house but now the husband of her daughter Polly. But there is a long story to narrate about my time and relationship with Polly. Mrs. Mooney, a butcher's daughter, married one of her father's ancestors. Her husband descended into alcoholism, ruined family business and became increasingly violent until Mrs. Mooney left him. With the remaining money, Mrs. Mooney set herself up in a boarding house. Mainly, her guests were the tourists and artistes from the music halls. She supervised things firmly and with great competence. She had her daughter Polly who was nineteen and lively when I met her in the boarding house. Because Mrs. Mooney wanted to give her a run of the young men, She worked in the boarding house, She flirted with them, but none of the men was serious about her. At that very moment grew closer to me. She had an affair with me. Everyone in the boarding house knew about it, including Mrs. Mooney, who bided her time. Finally, Mrs. Mooney intervened and told Polly that I had to marry her daughter. I was a man of thirty-four or thirty-five at the time with a respectable job in a great Catholic wine-merchant's business. One day I was trying to shave my unnecessarily grown up beard when I saw Polly sobbing by my side in my room. Though I soothed her, I plunged into the thought of last night when the priest dragged out the details of the affair in embarrassing detail. I knew then that I had no choice but to marry the girl or run away. I thought about my job, family, her English, my boss and friends, her father and her mother's boarding house. But I couldn't do a single thing on my behalf. Polly told me that her mother knew everything about our affair. I started calculating our affair. First I remembered how it began, and how thoughtful she had been. At the very moment the maid named Mary entered and announced that Mrs. Mooney would like to see me. I put on my coat and moved down the stairs. On the way I came across Jack Mooney, Polly's brother. Jack was strong and belligerent, who liked getting into fights. He was so touchy on the subject of his sister's honor. Jack gave me a dirty look as I passed. Back in the room, Polly started dreaming about her future with me. She looked in the mirror and managed herself. She dried her eyes and tried to look happy and beautiful. Resting on the bed, she looked at the pillows and dreamt her future happiness. At last, she heard her mother's voice calling her so that I could say something important to Polly.



**29. 2066 (PARTIAL) Q. NO. 13 A**

Briefly narrate the story of 'The Boarding House'. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

**30. 2064 Q. NO. 13 A**

Sketch the character of Mrs. Mooney. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

**31. 2063 Q. NO. 13 B**

Briefly narrate the story 'The Boarding House'. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**

**32. 2058 Q. NO. 2 A**

Sketch of the character of Mrs. Mooney. [10]

- Please refer to **2076 SET B Q. NO. 3B**