Analysis of Eveline

Eveline is a short story totally focused on the main character that is Eveline. The story is set in Dublin.
James Joyce uses the language of sense impression to have the reader to feel and hear directly what happens in the scene. In order to realize it, he uses onomatopoeic verbs such as “clacking”. In this way, the reader has the idea of being inside the scene. Such linguistic choice is useful to make the scene more realistic.
The character projects itself in the past. Collecting all the memories from the past, the reader perceives a sense of nostalgia; now she looks tired while once she used to play.
Her father is presented as a violent and aggressive man because he drank a lot, as used to be in Ireland. The idea of this aggressive father is anticipated by the verb “to hunt”. The reader can also understand her father has become more violent that he used to be.
In this way Joyce creates her family environment in the reader’s mind.
Right from the initial close setting, the reader perceives that Eveline has never able to leave her room.
The idea of leaving her familiar place is not an act, just an intention, it will never be translated into an action. She thinks that going away means living her familiar objects. Eveline is paralyzed since she is unable to react, therefore she looks as if she were dead. She feels a sense of guilty because in her past experience she has promised her mother to look after her father. All her life is conditioned by this promise. In short Eveline in not the real protagonist of her life, since she does not fight for what she really wants.