The following text belongs to chapter 4 and the scene refers to Ethan’s thoughts.

The protagonist feels reassured and relieved and he’s looking forward to his first evening alone with Mattie. His mood sounds totally different from his usual one, the narrator words choice highlights his expectations: “sweetness”, “relief”, “sent up” togheter with his behaviour “whistle” and “sang aloud” convay his feelings and provide a different impressiono f the character.

Expressions like “a slimbering sparkle sociability” offer Ethan’s portrait under a new light. Indeed the idea of having a more intimate space with Mattie sounds as if a ray of light were crossing his house and life. The immage is magnified by the contrast with weather condition that had always indreed his chance o fan escape from hard reality.

The intelligent reader cannot help remembering the comment on Ethan’s hard existence, when adressing the narrator he said: “Guess he has been in Starkfield too many winters” (between atmosphere elements and emotions there’s a comunion). Therefore the contrast between the sorrounding cold snowy winter and his intimate perception of a glimps of freedom in his house rainforce the transformational role that Mattie plays in his everyday routine.

The narrator insists on the op position light versus cold riminding the reader of Ethan’s grave and inarticolate nature. To tell the truth he feels pleasure in considerino Mattie’s gayety and recklesness and feel warm when, while attending highschool he was proud of “being clapped on the back”.

Since his mother’s death, everyday routine has not changed and he looks an oppressive life devoid of any conviviality occasion. He enjoyed his mother talks and suffered when dewed to her illness her voice could no longer be heard. When Zeena came to help, her voice sounded music to his ears. The protagonist’s rare moment o fan happy exsistance seems always to come frome the outside, from sociable people whose company he has enjoyed.