Annotation

Gabriel is the protagonist in the story who wants to be a writer. The writings of Gabriel are confined to journalism and the beginning of the story revolves around the social event of ‘Morkan’s annual dance’. Gabriel is Morkan’s nephew who participates in the dance with his wife Gretta. As he leaves the party he encounters a new story from the past about his wife.

The central character of the story, Gabriel exhibits lack of interest in Irish politics. He is struggling to find something exciting as he is bored by his friends, relatives and the entire country. He expresses that he is sick of his own country. Gabriel is also the victim of abrupt departure and is often unable to control his emotions. The deeper analysis of the character depicts that he is misfit in the society due to his indifferent nature. He values literature more than politics and strives to make name in writing.

Gabriel starts feeling that he and his wife failed to fulfill their duties and roles. He recalls the intimate moments of courtship and takes his wife to the hotel. He believes that by taking her to the hotel they could start a new adventurous life. In fulfilling his desires he remains unaware of his wife’s feelings. He finds that Gretta had been in love with Furey who died when she moved to Dublin.

By living few days in the hotel Gabriel encounters the reality of his life that revealed his self-image. He attempted to reevaluate his relationship with Gretta that resulted in disappointment. He explored that hos wife had been in deep romantic relationship with other guy who died in her separation. By the end he realizes that he had never attained the real contentment in his relationship or life.