

Dubliners

James Joyce

What does 'prisoner for life' reveal about how Chandler interprets family responsibility in this moment?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Little Chandler calls himself a prisoner
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	A Little Cloud
START	He paused. He felt the rhythm of the verse about him in the room.
END	He was a prisoner for life.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dub-03

THE MOVE

Use metaphor to reveal resentment before an action

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Little Chandler describes family life as imprisonment at a moment when frustration with the crying child and his own stalled ambitions are strongest. The metaphor exposes resentment before he acts on it.

MARK

Underline the immediate frustrations surrounding Chandler. Circle the prison language. Star the point where ordinary responsibility becomes, in his mind, a permanent sentence.

NOTICE

- What facts of family life are present in the scene?

- What does the prison metaphor add that those facts alone do not contain?
- How does the metaphor prepare the reader for Chandler's next behavior?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does 'prisoner for life' reveal about how Chandler interprets family responsibility in this moment? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does 'prisoner for life' reveal about how Chandler interprets family responsibility in this moment? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	'Prisoner for life' reveals that Chandler is interpreting ordinary family responsibility through resentment about his unrealized artistic ambitions. The metaphor converts obligation into confinement just before frustration spills into action.
EVIDENCE	Use the artistic longing, crying child/family demands, and prison language.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat the metaphor as an objective description of his family. It reveals Chandler's emotional interpretation at that moment.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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What does 'prisoner for life' reveal about how Chandler interprets family responsibility in this moment?

START ANCHOR	He paused. He felt the rhythm of the verse about him in the room.
END ANCHOR	He was a prisoner for life.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the immediate frustrations surrounding Chandler. Circle the prison language. Star the point where ordinary responsibility becomes, in his mind, a permanent sentence.
2. NOTICE - What facts of family life are present in the scene? What does the prison metaphor add that those facts alone do not contain? How does the metaphor prepare the reader for Chandler's next behavior?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does 'prisoner for life' reveal about how Chandler interprets family responsibility in this moment?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.