

NB All page references are taken from the 1911 Penguin edition

For each quotation, make notes or comment on what the quotation tells us about the setting, characters or plot.

1. 'The earth lay dark under a muffled sky and the air was so still that now and then he heard a lump of snow come thumping down ...' (p.49)
2. '... and he had a confused sense of being in another world, where all was warmth and harmony and time could bring no change.' (p.49)
3. '... Ethan had a momentary shock. It was almost as if the other face, the face of the superseded woman, had obliterated that of the intruder. After a moment, Mattie seemed to be affected by the same sense of constraint.' (p.49)
4. 'The cat, who had been a puzzled observer of these unusual movements, jumped up into Zeena's chair... watching them with narrowed eyes. (p.50)
5. '... the odour of Ethan's smoke, which began to throw a blue haze about the lamp and to hang its greyish cobwebs in the shadowy corners ...' (p.50)
6. '... and he set his imagination adrift of the fiction that they had always spent their evenings thus and would always go on doing so ...' (p.50)
7. '... but it's as dark as Egypt outdoors.' (p.50)
8. 'It was intoxicating to find such magic in his clumsy words, and he longed to try new ways of using it.' (p.50)
9. 'Her cheeks burned redder ... Mattie blushed to the roots of her hair.' (p.51)
10. 'That's an ugly corner down by the big elm. If a fellow didn't keep his eyes open he'd go plumb into it.' (p.51)
11. 'Yes, we're well enough here.' (p.51)
12. 'The words had been on his tongue all the evening, but now that she had spoken them they struck him as inexpressibly vulgar and out of place.' (p.51)
13. 'He knew that most young men made nothing at all of giving a pretty girl a kiss, and he remembered ... when he had put his arm around Mattie, she had not resisted. But that had been out-of-doors, under the open irresponsible night. Now, in the warm, lamplit room, with all its ancient implications of conformity and order, she seemed infinitely further away from him ...' (p.51)
14. 'She pronounced the word *married* as if her voice caressed it.' (p.52)

15. 'The cat had jumped from Zeena's chair to dart at a mouse in the wainscot, and as a result of the sudden movement the empty chair had set up a spectral ricking.' (p. 53)
16. 'She'll be rocking in it herself this time to-morrow,' Ethan thought. 'I've been in a dream, and this is the only evening we'll ever have together.' (p.53)
17. '... and without knowing what he did he stopped his head and kissed the bit of stuff in his hold. As his lips rested on it he felt it glide slowly from beneath them, and saw that Mattie had risen and was silently rolling up her work.' (p.53)
18. 'When these nightly duties were performed there was nothing left to do ... Ethan put the candlestick in Mattie's hand ... ' (p.54)
19. '... and she went out of the kitchen ahead of him, the light that she carried before her making her dark hair look like a drift of mist of the moon.' (p.54)
20. '... he remembered that he had not even touched her hand.' (p.54)

