

Here are the prompts for *Remains of the Day*. Choose one of the three and post your essay to the blog, 500 words (minimum). The best responses will incorporate quotes, phrases, symbolism, imagery, and other ideas from Ishiguro's text.

1. After his epiphany on the Weymouth pier, Stevens decides to begin a new life in Ireland. In Dublin, he takes up residence at The Gresham, but, finding the accommodations unsatisfactory, he ventures forth in search of other arrangements. His daily meanderings take him farther and farther afield, tragically damaging the cuffs of his trousers, but these days Stevens cares little about such trifles. One snowy afternoon he comes upon a lonely churchyard on a hill; as he is by nature enchanted by the past, he wanders in, and at length comes to the grave of Michael Furey. Several silent moments pass and Stevens becomes lost in his thoughts as the snow falls faintly around him. Suddenly, he realizes he is not alone. "I'm Gabriel Conroy," the black-clad stranger begins. His voice crackles in the wintry shadows, relating a tale all of us have heard before. Without summarizing, write Stevens' thoughts on Gabriel's tale in your post.
2. It turns out that Stevens' memoir is a fantasy of the life he could have had. Here, in fact, is the sad truth: Lord Darlington fired him after the conference, when it was discovered that Stevens, in an attempt to offer his lordship's godson a proper introduction to married life, had brought live bees into his pantry for the purpose of illustration. Stimulated by the flowers left in his pantry by Miss Kenton, the bees escaped and terrorized the guests as they reclined at dinner, ruining the whole affair. Dejected but not defeated, Stevens made his way to London, finding employment with the Dalloways of Westminster; his arrival was timely, in that Mrs. Dalloway was to host a party that very evening. In the wee hours, he is engaged in conversation with Peter Walsh, who demands to know Stevens' life story, since with Peter, "everything must be gone into." Write the conversation, taking care to include Stevens' inner thoughts.
3. Mr. Nigro is enjoying lunch at the 5th View restaurant in Waterstone's Piccadilly, when Kazuo Ishiguro walks in with an older couple, unnoticed by the crowd. As they take their seats at a nearby table, Mr. Nigro realizes that Ishiguro's guests are not a couple at all: they are, in fact, Virginia Woolf and James Joyce, and a heated discussion soon arises among them about the purpose of fiction in the modern world and how to tell a story, specifically using indirect discourse and other inventive narrative techniques. Mr. Nigro excitedly transcribes what he can hear of the conversation as a blog post for his students. Write Mr. Nigro's post. (Note: This response should, by necessity, be significantly longer than 500 words.)