

Life The most important features of Joyce's works

He was born in 1882 in Dublin, was largely educated by the jesuits and studied modern languages. His interest was for a broader **European culture**, and this led him to begin to think of himself as a European rather than an Irishman. In 1903 he left Ireland to attend a medical school in Paris but his **mother's fatal illness** brought him back to Dublin. In June 1904 he met and fell in love with **Nora Barnacle**, a 20-year-old girl, they settled in Trieste and married. Here he became friends with Italo Svevo. **Dubliners** is a collection of short stories written by James Joyce and first published in 1914. The collection provides a snapshot of everyday life in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, in the early 20th century. In 1915 Joyce moved to Zurich together with his family, the novel **Ulysses** was published and created both praise and sharp criticism. Joyce never saw the conclusion of World War II. Following an intestinal operation, he died at the age of 59. He is buried in Zurich.

The most important features of Joyce's works

- The setting of most of his works is Ireland, especially Dublin.
- He rebelled against the Catholic Church.
- All the facts in his narratives explored from different points of view simultaneously.
- Greater importance given to the inner world of the characters.

The evolution of Joyce's style

-Realism.	- Third-person narration
-Disciplined prose.	- Minimal dialogue
-Different points of view.	-Free-direct speech.
-Free-direct speech.	-Language and prose used to portray the protagonist's

state of mind.

Dubliners (1914).

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916)

-Interior monologue with two levels of narration.

Ulysses (1922)

-Extreme interior monologue.

Dublin-Dubliners

The Dublin represented by Joyce is not fixed and static, it is 'the revolutionary montage of "Dublins", the 15 stories of the **Dubliners**, though set in the same city, are not united by their geography: each story has a singular location. Dubliners is Published in 1914 in the newspaper "**The Irish Homestead**" by Joyce with the pseudonym Stephen Dedalus.

Dubliners are described as afflicted people.

All the stories are set in Dublin: 'The city seemed to me the centre of paralysis', Joyce stated.

Narrative technique and themes

- Naturalistic, concise, detailed **descriptions**;
- Realism mixed with **symbolism** (deeper meaning of external details);
- Each story opens in **medias res** and is mostly told from the perspective of a character;
- Use of **free-direct speech** and free-direct thought direct presentation of the character's thoughts;
- Different **linguistic registers** (the language suits the age, the social class and the role of the characters);
- Use of **epiphany**, 'the sudden spiritual manifestation' of an interior reality;

- Themes are **paralysis** and escape;
- **Absence of a didactic and moral aim because** of the impersonality of the artist.

Epiphany

Joyce's aim is to take the reader beyond the usual aspects of life through epiphany.

It is the special moment in which an external object or a banal situation or an episode lead the **character to a sudden self-realisation about himself** or about the reality surrounding him.

Paralysis

Physical paralysis caused by external forces, **moral paralysis** linked to religion, politics and culture. The paralysis represents the climax of the story, the alternative is **escaping** which always leads to failure.

The Dead

The Dead is the final and most famous short story in James Joyce's collection Dubliners.

Some key themes in The Dead include: **Mortality, Self-awareness and Epiphany, The Impact of the Past, Alienation and Isolation.**

The protagonists: Gabriel Conroy, an embodiment of Joyce himself, and Gretta, his wife.

Gabriel's marriage is clearly suffering from paralysis.

Epiphany: the song The Lass of Aughrim, reminds Gretta of a young man, Michael Furey, who died for her when he was seventeen years old. Gabriel understands he is deadlier than Michael Furey in Gretta's mind.

Stream of consciousness

Is a literary technique that attempts to depict the continuous, chaotic flow of thoughts, feelings, and sensory experiences inside a character's mind. Techniques used for the stream:

- **Interior Monologue:** This technique presents a character's thoughts as though they are speaking to themselves. The inner dialogue is often fragmented, spontaneous, and unorganized, mimicking real thought processes;
- **Free Association:** Joyce allowed thoughts to flow freely without logical sequence or order;
- **Shifting Perspectives:** Joyce frequently shifts between different characters' thoughts and experiences, allowing readers to experience different points of view and mental states;
- **Fragmented Syntax and Punctuation:** Joyce often used disjointed sentence structures, irregular punctuation, and run-on sentences, breaking from conventional grammar to reflect the fragmented nature of consciousness;
- **Use of Sensory Details:** Joyce incorporates vivid sensory impressions (sights, sounds, smells, etc.) to show how they influence characters' thoughts and perceptions.