

1. *There was no hope for him this time: it was the third stroke. Night after night I had passed the house (it was vacation time) and studied the lighted square of window: and night after night I had found it lighted in the same way, faintly and evenly. If he was dead, I thought, I would see the reflection of candles on the darkened blind, for I knew that two candles must be set at the head of a corpse. He had often said to me: 'I am not long for this world,' and I had thought his words idle. Now I knew they were true. Every night as I gazed up at the window I said softly to myself the word paralysis. It had always sounded strangely in my ears, like the word gnomon in the Euclid and the word simony in the Catechism. But now it sounded to me like the name of some maleficent and sinful being. It filled me with fear, and yet I longed to be nearer to it and to look upon its deadly work.*

Ex 1:

This is the very beginning of *Dubliners*. Analyse the text and answer the questions:

- How does it introduce the main theme in the book?
- The first three stories in *Dubliners* belong to the group related to childhood. Is the narrator a child? How do we know?
- The narrator, a future writer, is fascinated by the power of words. How do we know?

Ex 2.

Are there any recurrent themes in *Dubliners*? What are they?

Ex. 3

In what way(s) is Joyce a modernist writer?

2. *A girl stood before him in midstream, alone and still, gazing out to sea. She seemed like one whom magic had changed into the likeness of a strange and beautiful seabird. Her long slender bare legs were delicate as a crane's and pure save where an emerald trail of seaweed had fashioned itself as a sign upon the flesh. Her thighs, fuller and soft-hued as ivory, were bared almost to the hips, where the white fringes of her drawers were like feathering of soft white down. Her slate-blue skirts were kilted boldly about her waist and dovetailed behind her. Her bosom was as a bird's, soft and slight, slight and soft as the breast of some dark-plumaged dove. But her long fair hair was girlish: and girlish, and touched with the wonder of mortal beauty, her face.*

Analyse the text and say:

- Who is compared to what here. Underline the words that contribute to the metaphor.
 - Whose language and point of view this is
 - Why this moment is so important for the protagonist
- (max 10 righe)

2. About the book

Explain in short what the *Portrait of the Artist* is

3. About Joyce's style

What is the mimetic technique?

3. *I was thinking of so many things he didnt know of Mulvey and Mr Stanhope and Hester and father and old captain Groves and the sailors playing all birds fly and I say stoop and washing up dishes they called it on the pier and the sentry in front of the governors house with the thing round his white helmet poor devil half roasted and the Spanish girls*

laughing in their shawls and their tall combs and the auctions in the morning the Greeks and the jews and the Arabs and the devil knows who else from all the ends of Europe and Duke street and the fowl market all clucking outside Larby Sharans and the poor donkeys slipping half asleep and the vague fellows in the cloaks asleep in the shade on the steps and the big wheels of the carts of the bulls and the old castle thousands of

years old yes and those handsome Moors all in white and turbans like kings asking you to sit down in their little bit of a shop and Ronda with the old windows of the posadas glancing eyes a lattice hid for her lover to kiss the iron and the wineshops half open at night and the castanets and the night we missed the boat at Algeciras the watchman going about serene with his lamp and O that awful deepdown torrent O and the sea the sea crimson sometimes like fire and the glorious sunsets and the figtrees in the Alameda gardens yes and all the queer little streets and pink and blue and yellow houses and the rosegardens and the jessamine and geraniums and cactuses and Gibraltar as a girl where I was a Flower of the mountain yes when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls used or shall I wear a red yes and how he kissed me under the Moorish wall and I thought well as well him as another and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again yes and then he asked me would I yes to say yes my mountain flower and first I put my arms around him yes and drew him down to me so he could feel my breasts all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will Yes.

Analyse the text and say:

- What Molly is thinking of here
- What we learn about Molly's mind and personality from this passage
- A word is repeated many times. Why?(max. 10 righe)

Briefly explain what Ulysses is about.(max 10 righe)

Explain what the *stream of consciousness* technique is(max 10 righe)

4. *LET us go then, you and I,
When the evening is spread out against the sky
Like a patient etherised upon a table;
Let us go, through certain half-deserted streets,
The muttering retreats 5
Of restless nights in one-night cheap hotels
And sawdust restaurants with oyster-shells:
Streets that follow like a tedious argument
Of insidious intent
To lead you to an overwhelming question... 10
Oh, do not ask, "What is it?"
Let us go and make our visit.*

- 1) The beginning of *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* introduces the main motives of the poem. What are they? (massimo 10 righe)
- 2) Explain what these words suggest about:
 - The setting (quote relevant words)
 - Prufrock's feelings (quote relevant words)
 - The image of himself he wants to show (massimo 10 righe)

*5. Generous tears filled Gabriel's eyes. He had never felt like that himself towards any woman, but he knew that such a feeling must be love.
(...) he imagined he saw the form of a young man standing under a dripping tree. Other forms were near. His soul had approached that region where dwell the vast hosts of the dead. He was conscious of, but could not apprehend, their wayward and flickering existence. His own identity was fading out into a grey impalpable world: the solid world itself, which these dead had one time reared and lived in, was dissolving and dwindling.*

- 1) This is Gabriel's epiphany at the end of *The Dead*. Say:
 - What an epiphany is in Joyce's view
 - What this particular epiphany reveals

(massimo 10 righe)

2) Consider Joyce's use of language and say:

- What particular use of language Joyce makes in *Dubliners*
- In what way(s) is Joyce a modernist writer?

(massimo 10 righe)

6. Here is no water but only rock
Rock and no water and the sandy road
The road winding above among the mountains
Which are mountains of rock without water
If there were water we should stop and drink
Amongst the rock one cannot stop or think
Sweat is dry and feet are in the sand
If there were only water amongst the rock
Dead mountain mouth of carious teeth that cannot spit
Here one can neither stand nor lie nor sit
There is not even silence in the mountains
But dry sterile thunder without rain

- Say what these famous lines describe;
- The passage is based on repetition and contrast. Find them;
- Find the metaphor and explain it

(you can underline relevant words on the text) (max 10 righe)

How does this passage relate to the main theme/s of the *Waste Land*? (max 10 righe)

How does Eliot relate to the Modernist movement? (max 10 righe)

7. Through the wide doors of the sheds she caught a glimpse of the black mass of the boat, lying in beside the quay wall, with illumined portholes. She answered nothing. She felt her cheek pale and cold and, out of a maze of distress, she prayed to God to direct her, to show her what was her duty. The boat blew a long mournful whistle into the mist. If she went, tomorrow she would be on the sea with Frank, steaming towards Buenos Aires. (...) Could she still draw back after all he had done for her? Her distress awoke a nausea in her body and she kept moving her lips in silent fervent prayer.

A bell clanged upon her heart. She felt him seize her hand: 'Come! All the seas of the world tumbled about her heart. He was drawing her into them: he would drown her. She gripped with both hands at the iron railing.

James Joyce, *Dubliners*

1) Analyse the passage, and say:

- From whose point of view is the scene described
- What is revealed of Evelyne's feelings and through which words and expressions
- What kind of language is used here and why

(max 10 righe)

2) Explain what kind of girl Evelyne is and say if her final choice can surprise the reader. (max 3 righe)

1) Identify the themes in *Evelyne* and say if these themes are common to all the stories in *Dubliners*. (max 5 righe)

8. *The river's tent is broken; the last fingers of leaf
Clutch and sink into the wet bank. The wind
Crosses the broken land, unheard. The nymphs are departed.
Sweet Thames, run softly, till I end my song.
The river bears no empty bottles, sandwich papers,*

*Silk handkerchiefs, cardboard boxes, cigarette ends
 Or other testimony of summer nights. The nymphs are departed.
 And their friends, the loitering heirs of City directors;
 Departed, have left no addresses.
 By the waters of Leman I sat down and wept ...
 Sweet Thames, run softly till I end my song,
 Sweet Thames, run softly, for I speak not loud or long.*

1. Text analysis

- What is being described here?
- What is the general impression we get from this description?(underline relevant words)

(max. 8 righe)

2. This passage is a good example of what the "mythical method" is. Try to explain it in a few words. (max 5 righe)

3. What did Eliot mean when he said that he was "deeply indebted" to Frazer's *the Golden Bough* and Miss Weston's *From Ritual To Romance*?

(max. 8 righe)

9. *SHE sat at the window watching the evening invade the avenue.*

Her head was leaned against the window curtains and in her nostrils was the odour of dusty cretonne. She was tired.

Few people passed. The man out of the last house passed on his way home; she heard his footsteps clacking along the concrete pavement and afterwards crunching on the cinder path before the new red houses. One time there used to be a field there in which they used to play every evening with other people's children. Then a man from Belfast bought the field and built houses in it--not like their little brown houses but bright brick houses with shining roofs. The children of the avenue used to play together in that field --the Devines, the Waters, the Dunns, little Keogh the cripple, she and her brothers and sisters. Ernest, however, never played: he was too grown up. Her father used often to hunt them in out of the field with his blackthorn stick; but usually little Keogh used to keep nix and call out when he saw her father coming. Still they seemed to have been rather happy then. Her father was not so bad then; and besides, her mother was alive. That was a long time ago; she and her brothers and sisters were all grown up her mother was dead.

Tizzie Dunn was dead, too, and the Waters had gone back to England. Everything changes. Now she was going to go away like the others, to leave her home.

- Say what Evelyne is doing and what her behaviour reveals about her personality
- find references to time and say what view of time is shown in this story (and in Joyce's works in general) (max 8 righe)

In this passage we find a hint to at least two of the main themes in Dubliners. What are they? (max 6 righe)

This passage is an example of Joyce's mimetic technique. Explain what it is.

Kubla Khan

(or, a Vision in a Dream, a Fragment)

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan	1
A stately pleasure dome decree:	
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran	
Through caverns measureless to man	
Down to a sunless sea.	5
So twice five miles of fertile ground	

With walls and towers were girdled round:
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree;
And here were forests ancient as the hills, 10
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.

1. Write down:

- the vision the poem describes;
 - what this vision represents;
 - the meaning of the river.
1. Which period does S. T. Coleridge belong to and what are the characteristic of the movement in this poem?
 2. Is Kubla Khan a complete poem ? when and on what occasion did Coleridge conceive it?

J. Keats Ode on a Grecian Urn

Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard
Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on;
Not to the sensual ear, but, more endear'd,
Pipe to the spirit ditties of no tone:
Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not leave
Thy song, nor ever can those trees be bare;
Bold Lover, never, never canst thou kiss,
Though winning near the goal yet, do not grieve;
She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy bliss,
For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair!

1. This is the second stanza of the ode. In it it is re-proposed the same concept as Stanza 1 : Unheard harmony is sweeter than audible harmony. Which are the lines that give this idea? Quote them.
2. What is the meaning of this declaration?
3. Who are the figures described in this stanza

General appreciation

1. What is the message of the poem
2. What Romantic elements do you find in the poem
3. with his theme of art and beauty J. Keats is a forerunner of a very important literary movement of the second half of the Victorian Period. Which one? Who are its main protagonists?

M. Shelley, *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus*

At length lassitude succeeded to the tumult I had before endured, and I threw myself on the bed in my clothes, endeavouring to seek a few moments of forgetfulness. But it was in vain; I slept, indeed, but I was disturbed by the wildest dreams. I thought I saw Elizabeth, in the bloom of health, walking in the streets of Ingolstadt. Delighted and surprised, I embraced her, but as I imprinted the first kiss on her lips, they became livid with the hue of death; her features appeared to change, and I thought that I held the corpse of my dead mother in my arms; a shroud enveloped her form, and I saw the grave-worms crawling in the folds of the flannel. I started from my sleep with horror; a cold dew covered my forehead, my teeth chattered, and every limb became convulsed; when, by the dim and yellow light of the moon, as it forced its way through the window shutters, I beheld the wretch—the miserable monster whom I had created. He held up the curtain of the bed; and his eyes, if eyes they may be called, were fixed on me. His jaws opened, and he muttered some inarticulate sounds, while a grin wrinkled his cheeks. He might have spoken, but I did not hear; one hand was stretched out, seemingly to detain me, but I escaped and rushed downstairs. I took refuge in the courtyard belonging to the house which I inhabited, where I remained during the rest of the night, walking up and down in the greatest agitation, listening attentively, catching and fearing each sound as if it were to announce the approach of the demoniacal corpse to which I had so miserably given life.

Analysis

1. Who are the protagonist of this Fragment?
2. what is the meaning of the dream?

General appreciations

1. What genre does the novel belong to? What are the main characteristics of this genre in the novel?
2. What is the main theme of the novel?

Emily Brönte, *Wuthering Heights*

That will do to explain my secret, as well as the other. I've no more business to marry Edgar Linton than I have to be in heaven; and if the wicked man in there had not brought Heathcliff so low, I shouldn't have thought of it. It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now; so he shall never know how I love him: and that, not because he's handsome, Nelly, but because he's more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same; and Linton's is as different as a moonbeam from lightning, or frost from fire.'

Ere this speech ended I became sensible of Heathcliff's presence. Having noticed a slight movement, I turned my head, and saw him rise from the bench, and steal out noiselessly. He had listened till he heard Catherine say it would degrade her to marry him, and then he stayed to hear no further. My companion, sitting on the ground, was prevented by the back of the settle from remarking his presence or departure; but I started, and bade her hush!

Analysis

- a. Is Catherine aware that Heathcliff reciprocate her love? Why does she choose to marry Edgar Linton?
- b. Why is this considered a turning point in the novel?

General appreciations

- a. what is the main theme of the novel?
- b. Which are the Romantic elements ?

Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

It is a truth universally acknowledge their daughter

Answer the following questions

- what is the main theme in the novel? (10 lines)
- what is the narrator's attitude?

T. S. Eliot

The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

Shall

Drown

- what do these lines suggest about :
 1. Prufrock's self image
 2. the main motives of the poem

- Why does Prufrock use the pronoun WE

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The rime of the Ancient Mariner

From part III

Are those the ribs through which the sun

Who thicks man's blood with cold?

Task 1

Look at the description of life in death:

- What details of description are given?
- How is the final detail different from the others?
- What effect does it create?

Task 2

- What Romantic elements are used in the Rime (think of the themes, use of the language; nature)
- Why does the writer choose the ballad form?