

## James Joyce, Dubliners, Evelin

James Joyce was born in Dublin in 1882. He was educated at two Jesuit Schools and at University College Dublin, where he studied modern languages. Dissatisfied with the narrowness of life in Dublin, he left to live in Paris, but returned to Ireland when his mother died. During his stay he met a Galway woman and begun work on a novel later developed into "A Portrait of the artist as a Young Man" (1916). The two moved to Zurich and then to Trieste, where Joyce became a teacher. Joyce first published work was "Chamber Music" (1907), a poetry collection. This was followed by the short story collection "Dubliners" (1914). During the First World War Joyce left Trieste and moved back to Zurich. Here he began working on his second novel, "Ulysses" (1922). Both his works were first published in series. "Ulysses" was finally published in Paris, where Joyce had settled in 1920. In 1923 Joyce began working on his final novel, "Finnegan's Wake" (1939). In 1927 Joyce brought out a small collection of poems "Poems Pennyeach". At the outbreak of the Second World War the Joyce family returned to Switzerland, where Joyce died after an operation on a stomach ulcer in 1941.

Joyce work consistently challenges intellectual and cultural narrowness and conventional writing in the novel. Although he was a poet and also wrote one play. Each of these works is marked by his attempt to organize reality into an aesthetically unified, inclusive and perfect form. This aim can be seen from the very start in "Dubliners", where Joyce unifies the various stories in the volume around the theme of paralysis, showing this condition in youth, adolescence, maturity and public life. Ten years later he wrote "A Portrait of the artist as a Young Man", this was the work in which Joyce developed his theory of the epiphany, described as moments when the "soul" of an object stands with intense clarity or as moments of intense but evanescent personal revelation.

### Dubliners:

The stories in the collection feature characters who are trapped by life in their city. Joyce himself declared that Dublin "represented paralysis" and he organized the story to show the effects of the city and paralysis in childhood, adolescence, maturity and public life. Characters want to leave, escape, discover satisfaction and fulfillment, change their lives and their natures, but the city inexorably prevents them from doing so. Joyce matches the subject matter of his stories with concise prose and by selecting details that reflect the mood of sordid paralysis that dominates them.

The stories were written when Irish nationalism was at its peak, and a search for a national identity and purpose was raging. They centre on Joyce's idea of an epiphany and the theme of paralysis.

The first three stories in the collection are narrated by child protagonists, while the subsequent stories are written in the third person and deal with the lives and concerns of progressively older people, in line with Joyce's division of the collection into childhood, adolescence, maturity, and public life. Many of the characters in Dubliners later appeared in minor roles in Joyce's novel Ulysses.

### Evelin:

"Eveline" is a short story by the Irish writer James Joyce. It was first published in 1904 by the journal Irish Homestead<sup>[1]</sup> and later featured in his 1914 collection of short stories Dubliners. It tells the story of Eveline, a teenager who plans to leave Dublin for Argentina with her lover.

A young woman, Eveline, of about nineteen years of age sits by her window, waiting to leave home. She muses on the aspects of her life that are driving her away, while "in her nostrils was the odor of dusty cretonne". Her mother has died as has her older brother

Ernest. Her remaining brother, Harry, is on the road "in the church decorating business". She fears that her father will beat her as he used to beat her brothers and she has little loyalty for her sales job. She has fallen for a sailor named Frank who promises to take her with him to Buenos Aires. Before leaving to meet Frank, she hears an organ grinder outside, which reminds her of a melody that played on an organ on the day her mother died and the promise she made to her mother to look after the home. At the dock where she and Frank are ready to embark on a ship together, Eveline is deeply conflicted and makes the painful decision not to leave with him. Nonetheless, her face registers no emotion at all.

Like other tales in *Dubliners*, such as "Araby", "Eveline" features a circular journey, where a character decides to go back to where their journey began and where the result of their journey is disappointment and reluctance to travel.