

## ***Dubliners – James Joyce***

### **Aims:**

- To present some biographical information about the writer James Joyce
- To provide information about *Dubliners*
- To participate in written exercises related to the short story 'Eveline'.

### **Objectives:**

- To know some facts about the writer James Joyce and the short story collection *Dubliners*
- To answer questions related to the short story 'Eveline' in *Dubliners* using group work, graphic organisers and the Internet

## ***Dubliners***

'I think people might be willing to pay for the special odour of corruption which, I hope, floats over my stories' (Letters II, October 1905:122-3).

'My intention was to write a chapter of the moral history of my country and I chose Dublin for the scene because that city seemed to be the centre of paralysis' (Letters II, 5 May 1906:134).

'I seriously believe that you will retard the course of civilization in Ireland by preventing the Irish people from having one good look at themselves in my nicely polished looking glass' (Letters I, 23 June 1906:6)

## **Dubliners–15 June 1914**

- Dublin is the centre of paralysis –people are trapped/paralysed in unsuccessful, wasted lives
- Types of paralysis –intellectual, lack of action, literary, moral, physical, professional, political, religious, romantic, sexual, verbal (clichés, key words)

## **Eveline by James Joyce**

Audio recording of the story (10 mins.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7soqMb0Hub0>

## Activity 1: Research

1. Describe the neighbourhood in which Eveline lives.
2. What do you think might be the significance of the name Eveline?
3. What arguments does Eveline make for leaving Dublin?
4. What arguments does Eveline make for staying in Dublin?
5. Give three words to describe Eveline.
6. What main attitude towards Eveline in your opinion, does the story leave us with: detached; sympathetic; pitying; indifferent?

## Activity 2: Features of Style

1. Precise details about Eveline's physical environment in the opening –key nouns, verbs, adjectives, repetition of certain phrases
2. Free indirect style, a form of third person narrative –Focus on Eveline's inner monologue and list examples of Eveline repeating words, p.29, end para.
3. Ambiguity –i) Focus on Eveline's father –What questions do you have about him?  
ii) Focus on Frank –What questions do you have about him?  
iii) Focus on Eveline's relationship with Frank –What questions do you have about it?
4. Epiphany –Final paragraph, select words/phrases that suggest death. What do you think Joyce wants to tell us about Eveline?