

EARLY JOYCE

James Joyce (1882-1941) began writing stories about Dublin life while he was still in school. He left Ireland in 1904 for self-imposed exile; his stories, many completed before he left, were finally published as *Dubliners* in 1914, after years of squabbles with publishers. The next year, 1915, his autobiographical novel, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, appeared; in both form and content, it argues for the artist's rejection of middle-class (or as Joyce would say in *Finnegans Wake*, "muddle-crass") conventions and values. We will examine these two powerful books, still among the most important in the English language. (A bonus: many of the minor characters in *Ulysses* make their first appearances in these books.) In these two works of his young adulthood, Joyce introduces the major themes, images, and technical innovations that make him among the most important literary artists of the twentieth century.

Suggested texts: I prefer the Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics editions of both *Dubliners* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. These editions have excellent introductions and notes.

Session/Date	Assignment	Discussion topics
Session 1	Read "Araby"	Introduction: JJ's place in the modern canon; themes and images in JJ's work; demonstration reading of "Araby"
Session 2	Read first 6 stories in <i>Dubliners</i> (through "Two Gallants")	Childhood and young adulthood; disillusionment and paralysis
Session 3	Read next 8 stories (through "Grace")	Family, work and public life; the loss of ideals
Session 4	Read "The Dead"	Breaking out; compassion, and a larger world
Session 5	Read Chapter I of <i>Portrait</i>	Stephen Hero re-imagined; demonstration reading of opening section
Session 6	Read Chapters II and III	Nets: the pull of family, country, school, and religion
Session 7	finish POA	Flying the nets: "silence, exile, and cunning"
Session 8	No new reading	Final discussions and the road to <i>Ulysses</i>

LEADER: Lee Harrod taught Joyce and modern literature at the College of New Jersey for many years.

WEDNESDAYS: 10:00 a.m. to noon, 8 weeks beginning September 29 through November 17

MAXIMUM: 25