Riccardo FRANCO

**CLASS TEST CORRECTION**

**SECOND PERIOD**

**ENGLISH WRITTEN TEST 3**

Marjorie is a middle aged woman: she’s Vic Wilcox’s wife, the wife of a managing director, a bourgeois, and her name recalls something full and mature. She has no culture and she only thinks about earthly things and has common desires. She has a warm plump body that conveys to the reader the idea that her husband isn’t attracted by her anymore. Marjorie follows common judgements and trends: she’s reading “Enjoy Your Menopause” and the only thing she only cares for shoes, clothes and her house to be as beautiful as possible.

Marjorie is submitted to her husband, Vic, who supports her economically in everything: indeed, she’s a housewife. Marjorie hasn’t got trouble crossing her mind, indeed she’s sleeping so well, like a rock that cannot move, she seems unconscious. She’s loyal, faithful to her husband, she’s submitted to him, she makes him meals: Marjorie represents typical Victorian values. She doesn’t think about carnal impulses, but she thinks about family, her house, her husband and her children.

She’s a secondary character in David Lodge’s “Nice Work”.

Like Marjorie, Molly Bloom is a middle aged woman whose husband is Leopold Bloom. Her parallel is Penelope in Homer’s “Odyssey”, Like Marjorie, she thinks about common things like shopping, tapestry, and tries to get her house as much decorated as she can. The two characters’ aims of making their houses beautiful are different: Marjorie wants to make it better for her friends; instead Molly wants to seduce her lovers.

She doesn’t represent a real Penelope, she had many lovers and so Penelope can be better compared to Marjorie’s traditional Victorian values. She represents a new concept of woman, the one who’s no longer submitted to her husband. Her characterisation is given through her stream of consciousness and a simultaneous concept of time as well as with the language of sense impression.

Molly represents a break with Victorian values: while Marjorie seems to have lost her sensuality, Molly is keeping it, indeed her name recalls fertility; to tell the truth she has got many lovers and she thinks about carnal impulses. Molly knows she’s free even if she’s married with Leopold, because she isn’t submitted to him. For example, while Marjorie prepares Vic his meals, in Molly’s marriage it is Leopold he who makes breakfast for her. An additional difference with Marjorie is that when they have sex, Marjorie, like Leopold is in love with the partner and thinks only of him, while Molly like Vic isn’t mentally involved in the relationship.

In “The Dead” by James Joyce, Gretta is Gabriel’s wife. “The Dead” is the last short story in “Dubliners”. In the story the climax is Gabriel’s epiphany, a spiritual manifestation that makes him thinks about their marriage, or to better say: fake marriage. Gretta isn’t in love with him because she was mad for her first and only true love: Michael Furey, who died for her. Consequently, Gabriel is sad and embittered; his epiphany allows him to see the truth of things: his love wasn’t a real love too, he isn’t able to love Gretta as did Michael. Both are dying in their souls, they are paralyzed like the city of Dublin and the Dubliners: she has based her life on her memory, after Michael she didn’t live anymore.