Tuesday, 11th October 2016

Chapter 1, Part 2

-Aim of the character’s presentation -> to develop a coherent story line

-Introduction of the second character (Robyn Penrose)

-Robyn’s idea about the concept of character and illustration of the development of the novel (the reader understands Robyn’s idea through the mediation of one of her lectures)

-The narrator tells the story of Robyn’s life from her childhood to her present situation (while she is reflecting about the novels on which she has to lecture that morning, after having gotten up from bed)

-> Born in Australia, she left the country at the age of five; she was a brilliant student and she studied at Sussex university (an exciting and innovative place) -> innovation on the humanities

-Authors studied -> Freud, Marx, Kafka, Kierkegaard

-Period of her studies -> 1970s (oil crisis)

-Novels Robyn is thinking about -> Mrs. Gaskell’s “Mary Barton”(1848), Disraeli’s “Sybil” (1845)

-PhD at Cambridge (new ideas from Paris)

-The narrator shifts on Charles Dickens’ “Hard Times” -> utilitarian philosophy

-Robyn is against utilitarianism and Mrs. Thatcher’s policy

Comparison between Robyn’s and Charles’ PhD:

-Robyn -> “Narration and Contradiction in the Industrial Novel” – title changed in “The Industrial Muse”

-Charles -> “The Idea of Sublime in the Romantic Poetry”

-Description of Robyn’s house -> decorated by books and CDs

-Description of the relation between Robyn and Charles -> unusual relationship (Robyn doesn’t want a live-in lover)

-Robyn’s anxiety -> she doesn’t know if she’ll be able to tell the students everything she has to say