**Performer Culture and Literature 3, page 449**

The Funeral

James Joyce

Ulysses (1922)

Part III, Hades: Episode 3

Mr Bloom stood far back, his hat in his hand, counting the bared heads. Twelve. I'm thirteen. No. The chap in the macintosh is thirteen. Death's number. Where the deuce did he pop out of? He wasn't in the chapel, that I'll swear. Silly superstition that about thirteen.

Nice soft tweed Ned Lambert has in that suit. Tinge of purple. I had one like that when we lived in Lombard street west. Dressy fellow he was once. Used to change three suits in the day. Must get that grey suit of mine turned by Mesias. Hello. It's dyed. His wife I forgot he's not married or his landlady ought to have picked out those threads for him.

The coffin dived out of sight, eased down by the men straddled on the gravetrestles. They struggled up and out: and all uncovered. Twenty.

Pause.

If we were all suddenly somebody else.

* **Concentrate on the narrative technique of this passage and do the following activities.**

1. Has the time of narration got any link with chronological time? Why? Where does the action take place?

-The time of narration doesn’t follow any chronological order: facts are freely recalled by the character’s mind by means of association.

- The action takes place at somebody’s funeral, in a cemetery, when a coffin is put underground.

1. Some sentences describe the scene from the outside; others reproduce Bloom’s thoughts. Underline them with two different colours; then note down the two levels of narration, specifying the points of view adopted:
2. First level of narration: external non omniscient narrator (external point of view: he tells the story from the outside)
3. Second level of narration: interior monologue of Mr Bloom (interior point of view: the narration follows the so-called “stream of consciousness”)
4. Consider the sentence structure throughout the passage. Some sentences are regular with a conventional use of grammar; others lack subjects, verbs or are made up of only one word. Decide which level of narration they belong to.

* Those sentences which are grammatically incorrect belong to the second level of narration, the one who describes the character’s inner feelings and thoughts.