



James Joyce - The Dead -

Sebastiano Mariuz 5LSCA



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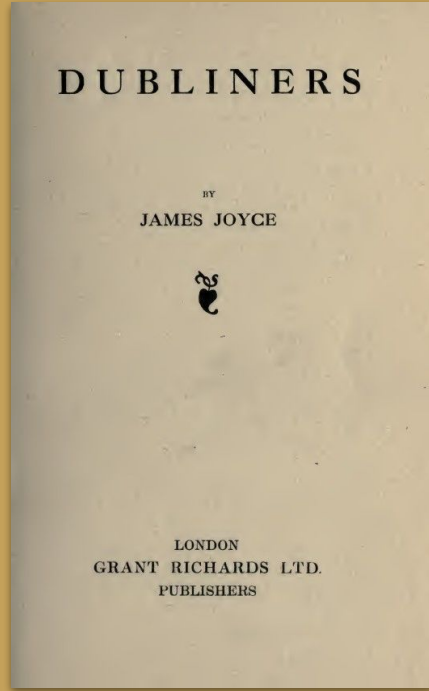


Why

Symbols



1. Take the universal from small everyday things, like a simple dinner;
2. The desire to want to escape from monotony and everyday life;
3. The link between life and death, the latter extends like a veil of snow covering everything that surrounds us.



Author: James Joyce

Language: English

Genre: Short story (15 stories)

Publisher: Grant Richards Ltd., London

Publication date: June 1914

Pages: 152

In particular, we are going to analyze the latest short story, called “The Dead”.

Characters and characterisation

Gabriel Conroy	The main character; He is really loved by his aunts, really kind and polite in ways and expressions;
Kate and Julia Morkan	Gabriel and Mary Jane's aunts; they use to organize a party every year during Christmas
Mary Jane Morkan	Niece of Kate and Julia, she plays piano and teaches how to play that;
Lily	The first characters who appear in the story, she is the caretaker's daughter.
Gretta Conroy	Gabriel's wife, really polite and nice.
Molly Ivors	A friend of Gabriel, patriotic about Ireland

Characters and characterisation

Mr Browne	Only protestand guest at the party;
Freddy Malins	The alcholic friend of G. Conroy
Mrs Malins	F. Malins's mother
Bartell D'Arcy	A famous tenor who is requested to sing by Julia and Kate Morgan;
Patrik Morkan	The dead brother of Julia and Kate; famous for his horse which led him in circles around the statue of King William III
Michael Furey	Gretta's young love, who dead for love one week after the leaving of Gretta.

Setting

The most part of the story is set in Kate and Julia Morgan's House;

But in the final part, the setting changes, and the narrations is set in a Hotel, where Gabriel and Gretta slept before leaving.



Narratives Techniques

1. The Dead is told from the third person point of view but from no one fixed perspective;
2. The use of **free indirect speech** (Linked to Verga) This narrative technique is exemplified in the story's opening paragraphs when author presented Lily.
3. Broken Syntax: it represents the interiority of the individual, insecure and without certainties


Message

A possible message could be aimed at reflection on feelings and the afterlife. We are people who are alive but at the same time dead from a sentimental point of view. Unable to feel love and affection.



Personal Consideration

I think this story perfectly reflects today's society: tied only to appearances and selfish, capable only of protecting itself and showing its superiority to others. A society capable of lying and acting its part, but unable to have serious and heartfelt feelings.





Why should one read it?

This story should be read to become aware of the modernity of the themes present in Joyce's flavor.

