



An Introduction to Modernism in Literature

- Literary Modernism is a subset of a larger artistic movement called Modernism that embraces painting and music
- In the literary realm, it's basically responsible for some seriously weird literature produced roughly between the end of World War I and the beginning of World War II.

Who????

James Joyce

T.S. Eliot

Virginia Woolf

D.H. Lawrence

Samuel Beckett

Ezra Pound

Gertrude Stein

Katherine Mansfield

Why????

- a response to a lot of the destruction and disruption caused by World War I (technology that was better than the warfare style it was designed for, trench warfare and poison gas)
- the city transforms
- It provoked a lot of artists, writers, and also painters and musicians, to really think that they need a new art to make sense of this new world





What???

- *nonlinearity of plot or sequence of things*
- *irony and satire (Verbal irony, situational irony, dramatic irony)*
- *voices and the idea of stream of consciousness*
- *allusions*

Ezra Pound

- Came to London in 1908
- hangs out with Yeats and T.S. Eliot
- created artistic movements
- Imagism
- direct treatment of the “thing” as “thing” (an attempt at isolating a single image to reveal its essence)
- short
- use absolutely no word that does not contribute to the presentation.
- As regarding rhythm: to compose in sequence of the musical phrase, not in sequence of the metronome.



In the Station of the Metro

*The apparition of these faces in the crowd;
Petals on a wet, black bough.*

Ezra Pound

Voiticism



Gertrude Stein



- American living in Paris
- difficult-to-understand poems, mostly characterized by wordplay as greater than meaning. She's more interested in how words sound
- A classic Steinian phrase is '*A rose is a rose is a rose.*' "There is no there there"
- *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*
- *Tender Buttons* 1914

Tender Buttons

A BOX.

Out of kindness comes redness and out of rudeness comes rapid same question, out of an eye comes research, out of selection comes painful cattle. So then the order is that a white way of being round is something suggesting a pin and is it disappointing, it is not, it is so rudimentary to be analysed and see a fine substance strangely, it is so earnest to have a green point not to red but to point again.

Tender Buttons

A RED STAMP.

If lilies are lily white if they exhaust noise
and distance and even dust, if they dusty
will dirt a surface that has no extreme
grace, if they do this and it is not
necessary it is not at all necessary if they
do this they need a catalogue.

Tender Buttons

MILK.

Climb up in sight climb in the whole utter needles
and a guess a whole guess is hanging. Hanging
hanging.

EGGS.

Kind height, kind in the right stomach with a little
sudden mill.

Cunning shawl, cunning shawl to be steady.

Katherine Mansfield

- from New Zealand
- a pretty bohemian lifestyle
- Anton Chekov
- *In a German Pension* (1911)
- *The Garden Party & Other Stories* (1922)
- *Bliss and Other Stories* (1923)
- died at the age of 34



James
Joyce

1882–1941



- had long-lasting impact in literature
- particularly famous for starting the technique known as stream of consciousness

James Joyce's [Ulysses](#), Molly seeks sleep:

a quarter after what an unearthly hour I suppose theyre just getting up in China now combing out their pigtails for the day well soon have the nuns ringing the angelus theyve nobody coming in to spoil their sleep except an odd priest or two for his night office or the alarmlock next door at cockshout clattering the brain out of itself let me see if I can doze off 1 2 3 4 5 what kind of flowers are those they invented like the stars the wallpaper in Lombard street was much nicer the apron he gave me was like that something only I only wore it twice better lower this lamp and try again so that I can get up early

James Joyce

- Irish author
- the oldest of 10 surviving children
- boarding school, local school, college in Dublin, heads off to Paris, medical school, comes home, stays in Dublin, starts to work on *Portrait*
- in 1904, on June he meets his future wife Nora Barnacle
- a short-story collection *Dubliners* (1914)
- *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* 1916
- starts working on *Ulysses*, which starts getting published serially - in installments (1918)
- *Ulysses* gets published in its final book form in 1922
- *Finnegans Wake* 1939

Finnegans Wake

- unreadable !!!
- experimental
- lots of words from foreign languages
- the beginning of the book and the end of the book are the same sentence, but in a circle. The beginning of the book is: *'riverrun, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodious vicus of recirculation back to Howth Castle and Environs.'* And the end of the book: *'End here. Us then. Finn, again! Take. Bussoftlhee, mememormee! Till thousandsthee. Lps. The keys to. Given! A way a lone a last a long the riverrun, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodious vicus of recirculation back to Howth Castle and Environs.'*
- Why does he do this?
- the important thing to know about Modernism - they know how to be normal and they choose not to be. That's always the way to approach any work of Modernism - to take a look at it, see where it's weird, and think about *why* it's weird.

Dubliners - 1914

- a short-story collection (15 stories) about people living in Dublin: 3 – about childhood, 4 – adolescence, 4 – mature life, 3 – public life, *The Dead* – summary
- JJ intended these short stories to be “a chapter in the moral history of Ireland”
- JJ recreated the short story, moving its action & focus from external to internal events
- the most famous stories - '*Araby*' and '*The Dead*.'
- **epiphany** (comes from the Christian church year commemorating the visit of the Wise Man – January 6); indicates a sudden revelation or discovery, usually unexpected, that allows the protagonist or reader to see smth in a new way

**"Gazing up into the darkness I
saw myself as a creature driven
and derided by vanity; and my
eyes burned with anguish and
anger."**

(Joyce, "Araby")



"Generous tears filled Gabriel's eyes. He had never felt like that himself towards any woman, but he knew that such a feeling must be love. The tears gathered more thickly in his eyes and in the partial darkness he imagined he saw the form of a young man standing under a dripping tree. Other forms were near. His soul had approached that region where dwell the vast hosts of the dead. He was conscious of, but could not apprehend, their wayward

and flickering existence. His own identity was fading out into a grey impalpable world: the solid world itself, which these dead had one time reared and lived in, was dissolving and dwindling.

A few light taps upon the pane made him turn to the window. It had begun to snow again. He watched sleepily the flakes, silver and dark, falling obliquely against the lamplight. The time had come for him to set out on his journey

westward. Yes, the newspapers were right: snow was general all over Ireland. It was falling on every part of the dark central plain, on the treeless hills, falling softly upon the Bog of Allen and, farther westward, softly falling into the dark mutinous Shannon waves. It was falling, too, upon every part of the lonely churchyard on the hill where Michael Furey lay buried. It lay thickly drifted on the crooked crosses and headstones, on the spears of the little gate, on the barren thorns.

His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead."

(Joyce, "The Dead")



Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, 1916

- the semi-autobiographical novel
- published serially in a magazine called 'The Egoist' between 1914 and 1915. It was published as a book in 1916
- abandons the idea that he needs to be strictly realistic. He starts to get a little more interested in representing Stephen's consciousness
- **Bildungsroman**- 'formation novel.'
- Stephen Dedalus - an alter-ego of young Joyce
- follows Stephen through stages of childhood and young adulthood

- **Part I: Childhood**

Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tuckoo.

- **Part II: Sexual Awakening**

- **Part III: Religious Torment**

- **Part IV: Discipline**

- **Part V: University**

at the end of the diary is a dedication to his father: *Old father, old artificer, stand me forever in good stead*

Ulysses

- Stephen Dedalus - in Dublin, working as a schoolteacher
- Leopold Bloom '*Mr. Leopold Bloom ate with relish the inner organs of beasts and fowls.*'