

analysis of eveline by james joyce

A Deep Dive into James Joyce's "Eveline": An Analysis of Paralysis and Escape

Introduction:

James Joyce's "Eveline," a poignant short story brimming with unspoken anxieties and simmering desires, remains a captivating exploration of paralysis and the complexities of choosing between a familiar past and an uncertain future. This in-depth analysis of "Eveline" by James Joyce delves into the story's intricate layers, examining its themes of family duty, personal freedom, and the psychological constraints that bind Eveline to her life in Dublin. We'll explore the powerful symbolism, the evocative language, and the ultimately ambiguous ending, offering a nuanced understanding of this literary masterpiece and providing valuable insights for students and enthusiasts alike. Prepare to embark on a journey into the heart of Eveline's internal conflict and the powerful forces shaping her destiny.

1. Eveline's Paralyzing Family Duty:

Eveline's life is defined by a crushing sense of duty to her dysfunctional family. Her father, a tyrannical figure, represents a patriarchal system that confines her. While the story doesn't explicitly detail the extent of the abuse, Joyce masterfully employs subtle hints – a "slap," the fear in her eyes, and the overall atmosphere of tension – to paint a picture of a controlling and potentially violent relationship. Her younger siblings, who are largely dependent on her, further solidify her sense of responsibility. This family burden becomes a powerful anchor, hindering her ability to break free from the stifling environment of her home. The imagery of the "paralyzing" weight of her responsibilities is conveyed through the vivid descriptions of her daily chores and the exhaustion etched into her being. She's trapped in a cycle of domestic servitude, an invisible cage built not of bars, but of ingrained societal expectations and familial obligation.

1. The Allure and Fear of Escape with Frank:

Frank, the sailor offering Eveline a chance at a new life in Buenos Aires, embodies both hope and trepidation. He represents escape, a path to freedom from her dreary existence. His promises of a better future, a life free from the constraints of her family and her impoverished surroundings, are alluring. However, this escape is fraught with anxieties. The "new world" is simultaneously exciting and terrifying – an unknown quantity filled with potential dangers and disappointments. Joyce cleverly uses contrasting imagery to highlight Eveline's conflicting emotions: the vibrant descriptions of Buenos Aires juxtaposed with her own feeling of being overwhelmed and emotionally paralyzed. The uncertainty of the future overshadows the allure of freedom, fueling her internal conflict.

1. Symbolism and Imagery in "Eveline":

Joyce's masterful use of symbolism throughout the story enhances its emotional impact. The recurring imagery of the sea and the ship represents both escape and the unknown. The sea, often a symbol of freedom, is also inherently dangerous and unpredictable, mirroring the risks Eveline faces in choosing to leave. The image of the "yellowing" photograph of her mother, a woman who died young, serves as a potent warning about the potential hardships and sacrifices that await her in a new life. Similarly, the bustling city streets and the crowds at the docks mirror the chaos and uncertainty of Eveline's decision. The carefully chosen details are not incidental; they are carefully constructed to build the narrative tension and reinforce the psychological weight of Eveline's internal conflict.

1. The Ambiguity of the Ending: A Triumph or a Tragedy?

The ending of "Eveline" is famously ambiguous, leaving the reader to contemplate the meaning of Eveline's ultimate inaction. Does she choose to stay out of fear, or out of a deep-seated sense of responsibility? Is her final moment a triumph of survival or a tragic surrender to a life of quiet despair? The lack of a definitive answer forces the reader to actively engage with the story, considering the various contributing factors that shape Eveline's decision. This ambiguity is a testament to Joyce's skill; it reflects the complexities of human nature and the multifaceted nature of choices that are often made under duress. The open ending allows for a wide range of interpretations, each as valid as the other, making "Eveline" a truly enduring work of literature.

1. The Power of Internal Conflict:

"Eveline" is a masterclass in portraying internal conflict. Joyce skillfully utilizes stream-of-consciousness to reveal Eveline's turbulent thoughts and feelings. The reader witnesses the rapid shifts between hope and fear, desire and duty, as Eveline grapples with her decision. This internal struggle is far more dramatic than any external conflict, emphasizing the power of psychological forces in shaping human actions. The constant flux of emotions highlights the internal battle raging within Eveline and the overwhelming pressure she feels.

Outline of the Analysis:

- I. Introduction: Brief overview of "Eveline," its themes, and the analysis's scope.
- II. Eveline's Paralyzing Family Duty: Examining the role of family obligations and patriarchal constraints.
- III. The Allure and Fear of Escape with Frank: Analyzing the complexities of Frank's offer and Eveline's conflicting emotions.
- IV. Symbolism and Imagery: Exploring the rich symbolism employed by Joyce to enhance the narrative.
- V. The Ambiguity of the Ending: Discussing the multiple interpretations of Eveline's final decision.
- VI. The Power of Internal Conflict: Highlighting the use of stream-of-consciousness in portraying Eveline's internal struggle.

VII. Conclusion: Summarizing key findings and reiterating the enduring relevance of "Eveline."

(Detailed explanation of each point is provided above in the body of the article.)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the central theme of "Eveline"? The central theme is the conflict between duty and freedom, specifically exploring the paralyzing effects of familial obligation and the fear of the unknown when faced with the possibility of escape.
1. Who is Frank in "Eveline"? Frank is a sailor who offers Eveline the chance to start a new life with him in Buenos Aires. He represents both hope and uncertainty for Eveline.
1. What is the significance of the ending of "Eveline"? The ambiguous ending is crucial; it leaves the reader pondering whether Eveline's inaction is a result of fear, duty, or a combination of both. It forces a critical engagement with the text and its themes.
1. How does Joyce use symbolism in "Eveline"? Joyce masterfully employs symbolism, such as the sea, the ship, and the photograph of Eveline's mother, to represent escape, uncertainty, and the weight of the past.
1. What is the setting of "Eveline"? The story is set in Dublin, Ireland, reflecting the societal and familial constraints that influence Eveline's choices.
1. What literary techniques does Joyce use in "Eveline"? Joyce uses stream-of-consciousness to portray Eveline's internal turmoil and vivid imagery to create a powerful atmosphere.
1. What is the significance of Eveline's father in the story? Eveline's father is a figure of patriarchal authority and control, symbolizing the oppressive forces that keep her trapped.

1. Is Eveline a feminist story? While not explicitly feminist, "Eveline" can be interpreted through a feminist lens, highlighting the societal constraints imposed on women and their limited choices in early 20th-century Ireland.
1. Why is "Eveline" still relevant today? "Eveline" remains relevant due to its timeless themes of personal freedom versus societal expectations, the weight of family responsibility, and the universal struggle between the familiar and the unknown.

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8. Analyzing the Ending of "Eveline": Multiple Interpretations: An in-depth look at the ambiguity of the story's conclusion.
9. Comparing and Contrasting "Eveline" with Other Dubliners Stories: Examining the thematic connections and differences between "Eveline" and other stories in the collection.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Dubliners* James Joyce, 2014-05-25T00:00:00Z *Dubliners* is a collection of picturesque short stories that paint a portrait of life in middle-class Dublin in the early 20th century. Joyce, a Dublin native, was careful to use actual locations and settings in the city, as well as language and slang in use at the time, to make the stories directly relatable to those who lived there. The collection had a rocky publication history, with the stories being initially rejected

over eighteen times before being provisionally accepted by a publisher—then later rejected again, multiple times. It took Joyce nine years to finally see his stories in print, but not before seeing a printer burn all but one copy of the proofs. Today *Dubliners* survives as a rich example of not just literary excellence, but of what everyday life was like for average Dubliners in their day. This book is part of the Standard Ebooks project, which produces free public domain ebooks.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Stylistic Analysis of James Joyces 'Eveline'* Anne-Mareike Franz, 2009-06-22 Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,7, University of Trier (Anglistik), course: Literary Linguistics, language: English, abstract: In 1903 James Joyce wrote the novel *Dubliners*, which consists of short stories about selected Irish people portraying their lives in Dublin. “Eveline” is one of the short stories of adolescence in this collection, as it deals with a young nineteen year old woman named Eveline, who is confronted with the decision on whether she should leave Dublin with her boyfriend Frank and start a new life in Buenos Aires or stay in her old habits. The story is written from a third-person limited point of view and because of this the reader is able to perceive Eveline’s world through her perspective. The reader witnesses how Eveline tries to discover herself and her own wishes. But her way of initiation is meant to lead to an surprising conclusion by Eveline in the end. What is so fascinating about “Eveline” is not only the plot itself, but the way Joyce illustrates the situation of Eveline linguistically through his way of writing. Through various linguistic means Joyce pictures Eveline’s “fear of taking a chance, fear of the unknown and of change”.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: Dubliners James Joyce, 2015-08-01 This collection of fifteen short stories by Irish author James Joyce examines how one's surroundings can shape and influence a person. Although initially considered too edgy for publication, *Dubliners* later became a classic as readers began to appreciate Joyce's realistic fiction. In each story, Joyce documents the daily lives and hardships of fictional Dublin citizens. Joyce's collection progresses from the struggles of childhood to the struggles of adulthood. This collection includes one of Joyce's most famous short stories, *The Dead*, which depicts the ways memories of the past can intrude upon the present. Joyce provides a glimpse into twentieth-century Irish culture and history in this unabridged short story collection, first published in 1914.

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Mookse and the Gripes is the peculiar and hilarious re-telling of Aesop's ancient fable of 'The Fox and the Grapes', as presented in Joyce's 1939 classic.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Ulysses* James Joyce, 2024-07-03 Stephen, an elbow rested on the jagged granite, leaned his palm against his brow and gazed at the fraying edge of his shiny black coat-sleeve. Pain, that was not yet the pain of love, fretted his heart. Silently, in a dream she had come to him after her death, her wasted body within its loose brown graveclothes giving off an odour of wax and rosewood, her breath, that had bent upon him, mute, reproachful, a faint odour of wetted ashes. Across the threadbare cuffedge he saw the sea hailed as a great sweet mother by the wellfed voice beside him. The ring of bay and skyline held a dull green mass of liquid. A bowl of white china had stood beside her deathbed holding the green sluggish bile which she had torn up from her rotting liver by fits of loud groaning vomiting. Buck Mulligan wiped again his razorblade. —Ah, poor dogsbody! he said in a kind voice. I must give you a shirt and a few noserags. How are the secondhand breeks? —They fit well enough, Stephen answered. Buck Mulligan attacked the hollow beneath his underlip. —The mockery of it, he said contentedly. Secondleg they should be. God knows what poxy bowsy left them off. I have a lovely pair with a hair stripe, grey. You'll look spiffing in them. I'm not joking, Kinch. You look damn well when you're dressed. —Thanks, Stephen said. I can't wear them if they are grey ...

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *The Dead* James Joyce, 2008-10 The Dead is one of the twentieth century's most beautiful pieces of short literature. Taking his inspiration from a family gathering held every year on the Feast of the Epiphany, Joyce pens a story about a married couple attending a Christmas-season party at the house of the husband's two elderly aunts. A shocking confession made by the husband's wife toward the end of the story showcases the power of Joyce's greatest innovation: the epiphany, that moment when everything, for character and reader alike, is suddenly clear.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Stylistic Analysis of James Joyces 'Eveline'* Anne-Mareike Franz, 2009-06 Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,7, University of Trier (Anglistik), course: Literary Linguistics, language: English, abstract: In 1903 James Joyce wrote the novel *Dubliners*, which consists of short stories about selected Irish people portraying their lives in Dublin. Eveline is one of the short stories of adolescence in this collection, as it deals with a young nineteen year old woman named Eveline, who is confronted with the decision on whether she should leave Dublin with her boyfriend Frank and start a new life in Buenos Aires or stay in her old habits. The story is written from a third-person limited point of view and because of this the reader is able to perceive Eveline's world through her perspective. The reader witnesses how Eveline tries to discover herself and her own wishes. But her way of initiation is meant to lead to an surprising conclusion by Eveline in the end. What is so fascinating about Eveline is not only the plot itself, but the way Joyce illustrates the situation of Eveline linguistically through his way of writing. Through various linguistic means Joyce pictures Eveline's fear of taking a chance, fear of the unknown and of change.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *The Girl who Fell from the Sky* Heidi W. Durrow, 2011-01-01 After a family tragedy orphans her, Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I., moves into her grandmother's mostly black community in the 1980s, where she must swallow her grief and confront her identity as a biracial woman in a world that wants to see her as either black or white. A first novel. Reprint.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Counterparts* James Joyce, 2014-07-15 Farrington is an alcoholic scrivener who has been scolded by his boss for not finishing a task on time. But instead of completing the task, Farrington goes out for a beer and receives yet another scolding from his boss. Farrington's day continues to unravel when he is humiliated at a local pub, and arrives home to find his wife out at chapel and his dinner uncooked. Critically acclaimed author James Joyce's *Dubliners* is a collection of short stories depicting middle-class life in Dublin in the early twentieth century. First published in 1914, the stories draw on themes relevant to the time such as nationalism and Ireland's national identity, and cement Joyce's reputation for brutally honest and revealing

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analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Analysis of James Joyce's short story "Eveline"* Katharina Ochsenfahrt, 2010-05-15 Essay from the year 2008 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, <http://www.uni-jena.de/> (Institut für Anglistik/ Amerikanistik), course: Academic Writing, language: English, abstract: Usually, people, who are in love, do not care about what their families, and other people might think about them. They miss each other when they are separated. All they want is being together. But in James Joyce's short story Eveline the protagonist behaves very differently. Why does she not leave with her boyfriend Frank when there seems to be nothing that holds her back? There is a plausible explanation. Eveline is not in love with Frank, she only sees him as a chance to escape from her hard life. She only hopes for a better life, but does not trust Frank. Moreover, she never mentions that she loves him, and finally she decides not to go with him.

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analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Clay* James Joyce, 2014-07-15 Maria, a laundress, is an older, unmarried woman with plans to attend her former foster child's Halloween celebration. On her way to the party, Maria is reminded of her "old maid" status, and during one of the party's games further confirms her marital future when choosing a lump of clay over a wedding ring. Critically acclaimed author James Joyce's *Dubliners* is a collection of short stories depicting middle-class life in Dublin in the early twentieth century. First published in 1914, the stories draw on themes relevant to the time such as nationalism and Ireland's national identity, and cement Joyce's reputation for brutally honest and revealing depictions of everyday Irish life. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

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analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Suspicious Readings of Joyce's "Dubliners"* Margot Norris, 2010-11-24 Because the stories in James Joyce's *Dubliners* seem to function as models of fiction, they are able to stand in for fiction in general in their ability to make the operation of texts explicit and visible. Joyce's stories do this by provoking skepticism in the face of their storytelling. Their narrative unreliabilities—produced by strange gaps, omitted scenes, and misleading narrative prompts—arouse suspicion and oblige the reader to distrust how and why the story is told. As a result, one is prompted to look into what is concealed, omitted, or left unspoken, a quest that often produces interpretations in conflict with what the narrative surface suggests about characters and events. Margot Norris's strategy in her analysis of the stories in *Dubliners* is to refuse to take the narrative voice for granted and to assume that every authorial decision to include or exclude, or to represent in a particular way, may be read as motivated. *Suspicious Readings of Joyce's Dubliners* examines the text for counterindications and draws on the social context of the writing in order to offer readings from diverse theoretical perspectives. *Suspicious Readings of Joyce's Dubliners*

devotes a chapter to each of the fifteen stories in *Dubliners* and shows how each confronts the reader with an interpretive challenge and an intellectual adventure. Its readings of *An Encounter*, *Two Gallants*, *A Painful Case*, *A Mother*, *The Boarding House*, and *Grace* reconceive the stories in wholly novel ways—ways that reveal Joyce's writing to be even more brilliant, more exciting, and more seriously attuned to moral and political issues than we had thought.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Kew Gardens Illustrated* Virginia Woolf, 2021-01-07 *Kew Gardens* is a short story by the English author Virginia Woolf. It was first published privately in 1919, [1] then more widely in 1921 in the collection *Monday or Tuesday*, [1] and subsequently in the posthumous collection *A Haunted House* (1944). Originally accompanying illustrations by Vanessa Bell, its visual organisation has been described as analogous to a post-impressionist painting

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Finnegans Wake* by James Joyce - Delphi Classics (Illustrated) James Joyce, 2017-07-17 This eBook features the unabridged text of 'Finnegans Wake' from the bestselling edition of 'The Complete Works of James Joyce'. Having established their name as the leading publisher of classic literature and art, Delphi Classics produce publications that are individually crafted with superior formatting, while introducing many rare texts for the first time in digital print. The Delphi Classics edition of Joyce includes original annotations and illustrations relating to the life and works of the author, as well as individual tables of contents, allowing you to navigate eBooks quickly and easily. eBook features: * The complete unabridged text of 'Finnegans Wake' * Beautifully illustrated with images related to Joyce's works * Individual contents table, allowing easy navigation around the eBook * Excellent formatting of the text Please visit www.delphiclassics.com to learn more about our wide range of titles

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analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Literature and the Writing Process* McMahan, 1999

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *James Joyce* Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of Humanities Harold Bloom, 2009 Presents twelve critical essays on the Irish writer and his works.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *A Study Guide for James Joyce's "Eveline"* Gale, Cengage Learning,

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *A New & Complex Sensation* Oona Frawley, 2004 This eclectic and probing collection of essays celebrates the centenary of the first publication of stories from James Joyce's 'Dubliners' in 1904. Since its publication in book form in 1914, 'Dubliners' has become one of the truly definitive short-story collections in world literature. 'A New and Complex Sensation' presents twenty fresh and exciting perspectives that explore the multiple layers and enduring power of Joyce's short fiction.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Women in Joyce* Suzette A. Henke, Elaine Unkeless, 1982

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Critical Analysis of Fiction* Jean Jacques Weber, 2021-11-15

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *"Eveline" by James Joyce. The Social Influence on a Human Being* Marcus Wenzel, 2018-11-17 Seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,3, University of Würzburg, language: English, abstract: We are predetermined. But do our genes really determinate us or are we able to actively influence our destiny? Maybe there is only progress in civilisation because of the interaction of genes and the active human being, or neither of them is of importance because our environment, which provides us all of our experiences, is the solely responsible for our fate? These questions become increasingly important in society. To answer them in a proper way is not only the task of parental education but becomes more and more important to teachers as well. We have to become aware of how influential our own actions are to others, especially to children, who are still in progress of defining their own personality. If we can comprehend to what our development depends on, we maybe can improve it actively, have a positive influence on the next generations and by that on the future of mankind. The theoretical approach to deal with the topic is named socialisation. I will apply this by analysing the

character of Eveline in the eponymous short story of James Joyce's *Dubliners*. In the case of Eveline, the damage is done and I argue that she could not run from who she was either. Intensively discussed why Eveline could not leave from her invidious life, when she had the chance to, I claim that there has been no chance to her whether to leave or not. Her heteronomous character gave her no permission to run away from her home. For my argumentation I will take into consideration the theoretical approach of socialisation levels by Klaus-Jürgen Tillmann.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Cut* Patricia McCormick, 2024-05-21 An astonishing novel about pain, release, and recovery from two-time National Book Award finalist, Patricia McCormick. A tingle arced across my scalp. The floor tipped up at me and my body spiraled away. Then I was on the ceiling looking down, waiting to see what would happen next. Callie cuts herself. Never too deep, never enough to die. But enough to feel the pain. Enough to feel the scream inside. Now she's at Sea Pines, a residential treatment facility filled with girls struggling with problems of their own. Callie doesn't want to have anything to do with them. She doesn't want to have anything to do with anyone. She won't even speak. But Callie can only stay silent for so long...

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* James Joyce, 2010-06-01 *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is semi-autobiographical, following Joyce's fictional alter-ego through his artistic awakening. The young artist Steven Dedalus begins to rebel against the Irish Catholic dogma of his childhood and discover the great philosophers and artists. He follows his artistic calling to the continent.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove* James Moloney, 2007 Carl Matt - even his name mocks him. The people of Wattle Beach do their best to grind him under foot. Why are the Matts such pariahs? The answer lies in Wiseman's Cove, a short ride across the strait where Carl finds refuge in the most unlikely place. Wiseman's Cove has been waiting for Carl - waiting a long time.

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analysis of eveline by james joyce: *The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce* Derek Attridge, 2004-06-17 This second edition of *The Cambridge Companion to Joyce* contains several revised essays, reflecting increasing emphasis on Joyce's politics, a fresh sense of the importance of his engagement with Ireland, and the changes wrought by gender studies on criticism of his work. This Companion gathers an international team of leading scholars who shed light on Joyce's work and life. The contributions are informative, stimulating and full of rich and accessible insights which will provoke thought and discussion in and out of the classroom. The Companion's reading lists and extended bibliography offer readers the necessary tools for further informed exploration of Joyce studies. This volume is designed primarily as a students' reference work (although it is organised so that it can also be read from cover to cover), and will deepen and extend the enjoyment and understanding of Joyce for the new reader.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Joyce's Dubliners* Warren Beck, 1969

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *Two Gallants* James Joyce, 2011-02-15 'Little jets of wheezing laughter followed one another out of his convulsed body. His eyes, twinkling with cunning enjoyment, glanced at every moment towards his companion's face.' 'When he was quite sure that the narrative had ended he laughed noiselessly for fully half a minute. Then he said: - Well...! That takes the biscuit!' James Joyce's naturalistic, unflinching portrayal of ordinary working people in his *Dubliners* stories was a literary landmark. These four stories from that collection offer glimpses of

defeated lives - an unremarkable death, a theft, a desperate plan, a failed writer's dream - yet each creates a compelling and ultimately redemptive vision of a city and of human experience. This book includes *Two Gallants*, *The Sisters*, *The Boarding House* and *A Little Cloud*.

analysis of eveline by james joyce: *A Little Cloud* James Joyce, 2014-10-06 James Augustine Aloysius Joyce (2 February 1882 – 13 January 1941) was an Irish novelist and poet, considered to be one of the most influential writers in the modernist avant-garde of the early 20th century. Joyce is best known for *Ulysses* (1922), a landmark work in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, perhaps most prominent among these the stream of consciousness technique he perfected. Other major works are the short-story collection *Dubliners* (1914), and the novels *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) and *Finnegans Wake* (1939). His complete oeuvre includes three books of poetry, a play, occasional journalism, and his published letters. Joyce was born into a middle-class family in Dublin, where he excelled as a student at the Jesuit schools Clongowes and Belvedere, then at University College Dublin. In his early twenties he emigrated permanently to continental Europe, living in Trieste, Paris, and Zurich. Though most of his adult life was spent abroad, Joyce's fictional universe does not extend far beyond Dublin, and is populated largely by characters who closely resemble family members, enemies and friends from his time there; *Ulysses* in particular is set with precision in the streets and alleyways of the city. Shortly after the publication of *Ulysses* he elucidated this preoccupation somewhat, saying, For myself, I always write about Dublin, because if I can get to the heart of Dublin I can get to the heart of all the cities of the world. In the particular is contained the universal. James Augustine Aloysius Joyce was born on 2 February 1882 to John Stanislaus Joyce and Mary Jane May Murray in the Dublin suburb of Rathgar. He was baptized according to the Rites of the Catholic Church in the nearby St Joseph's Church in Terenure on 5 February by Rev. John O'Mulloy. His godparents were Philip and Ellen McCann. He was the eldest of ten surviving children; two of his siblings died of typhoid. His father's family, originally from Fermoy in Cork, had once owned a small salt and lime works. Joyce's father and paternal grandfather both married into wealthy families, though the family's purported ancestor, Seán Mór Seoighe (fl. 1680) was a stonemason from Connemara. In 1887, his father was appointed rate collector (i.e., a collector of local property taxes) by Dublin Corporation; the family subsequently moved to the fashionable adjacent small town of Bray 12 miles (19 km) from Dublin. Around this time Joyce was attacked by a dog, which engendered in him a lifelong cynophobia. He also suffered from astraphobia, as a superstitious aunt had described thunderstorms to him as a sign of God's wrath.

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