James Joyce

1882 to 1941
Exile

• Wrote all of his major works while living in France, Italy, and Switzerland
• Dublin is an accurately rendered, but imagined city

• As a note, Samuel Beckett, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Thomas Hardy, and Bram Stoker also wrote elsewhere
Sick of Ireland

• Different path than Yeats (who wanted Celtic myth as the foundation of Irish culture)
• Looked to Europe for ideas and inspiration for literature (much like character Gabriel Conroy)
Short Story & Novel

• Joyce’s major works are:
  – *Dubliners* (1914)
  – *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
  – *Ulysses*
  – *Finnegan’s Wake*
Dubliners: Arrangement of Stories

• Three stories on childhood
  – The Sisters, An Encounter, Araby

• Four stories on late adolescence
  – Eveline, After the Race, Two Gallants, Boarding House

• Four stories with mature protagonists
  – A Little Cloud, Counterparts, Clay, A Painful Case

• Three stories on public life
  – Ivy Day, A Mother, Grace

• “The Dead”
Dubliners: first key point

- Epiphany
  - An anecdote
  - An observation
  - An overheard conversation
  - A dream sequence
  - A “sudden spiritual manifestation”
Dubliners: second key point

- Joyce announced his style as “scrupulous meanness”:
  - Short
  - Simple
Dubliners: third key point

- Joyce called the collection a “moral chapter of the history” of Ireland:
  - Dublin is the center of paralysis
- Hollowness, things forgotten, things left undone
In the world of Joyce’s Dubliners important plumcakes get left behind on trams, and corkscrews cannot be located; anticipated bazaars prove darkened and emptying; poets remain unread by would-be poets; and legal documents are not copied by clerks commissioned to copy them; political canvassers go unpaid; musical accompanists go unpaid . . .