

# ULYSSES

BY  
*JAMES JOYCE*



# OVERVIEW



- **Author** James Joyce
- **Year Published** 1922
- **Type** Novel
- **Genre** Fiction
- **Narrator** Ulysses is told in both third-person and first-person narration.
- **Tense** Ulysses uses a mix of past and present tense.





# Publication and Reception of Ulysses

- Joyce began writing Ulysses in 1914.
- From 1918 to 1920 he published instalments of his work-in-progress in a New York literary magazine, The Little Review.
- Bloom's scene in the "Nausicaä" episode resulted in an obscenity conviction for the magazine's publishers.
- Several plans to publish the complete Ulysses in the United Kingdom collapsed.
- Its typographic complexity and dubious legal future discouraged publishers.
- The book could not be published in the United States because of the obscenity conviction.
- In 1922 Joyce's friend Sylvia Beach, proprietor of the Paris bookstore Shakespeare and Company, published Ulysses in France.
- Initially printed in a run of only 1,000 copies, Ulysses was soon being smuggled into England and the United States.
- In 1933 a U.S. district court in New York ruled that Ulysses was not obscene and had literary merit and that Joyce was a "great artist."
- The trials and surrounding publicity influenced the reception of Ulysses, which came to stand for the fight of artistic freedom against censorship.



# ABOUT THE TITLE

- Ulysses is named after Odysseus ("Ulysses" is the Latin version of his name).
- Homer's epic tells of Odysseus's adventures following the Trojan War as he sails home to the island of Ithaca to rejoin his son, Telemachus, and wife, Penelope.
- In James Joyce's *Ulysses*, Stephen Dedalus and Leopold Bloom spend the day (and night) of June 16, 1904, wandering around Dublin before returning to Bloom's home.
- The three main characters of *Ulysses*—Stephen, Bloom, and Molly, Bloom's wife—parallel *The Odyssey*'s Telemachus, Odysseus, and Penelope.

## HENCE

- The novel is constructed as a modern parallel to Homer's *Odyssey*.





# An Epic of Ordinary Life

- We call epic the narration of heroic deeds.
- Heroes embodied those values societies were based on.

## HENCE

Heroes were extraordinary human beings

- The meanderings of Leopold Bloom/Ulysses, an ordinary ad salesman, are framed as the epic journey in Homer's *Odyssey* in the Mediterranean sea, which becomes Dublin in the novel.
- His and other ordinary characters' habits, thoughts, and exploits drive the plot .



## Why June 16th?



- Ulysses is set entirely during one day—June 16, 1904, to be exact.
- It was a memorable day for Joyce, as it was the first time he went on a date with his future wife, Nora Barnacle.
- The date would later become the annual celebration of Bloomsday (a holiday dedicated to Joyce's writing, wit, and impact on Irish culture).





# Structure

- **TELEMACHIA** : CHPT 1 – 3  
(*STEPHEN*)
- **ODYSSEY** : CHPT 4 - 15  
(*LEOPOLD*)
- **NOSTOS** : CHPT 16 – 18  
(*MOLLY*)

BUT IT IS NOT SO SIMPLE.....



TITLE	SCENE	HOUR	ORGAN	ART	COLOUR	SYMBOL	TECHNIC
<b>I Telemachia</b>							
1 Telemachus	: The Tower	: 8 a.m.	:	: theology	: white, gold	: heir	narrative (young)
2 Nestor	: The School	: 10 a.m.	:	: history	: brown	: horse	catechism (personal)
3 Proteus	: The Strand	: 11 a.m.	:	: philology	: green	: tide	monologue (male)
<b>II Odyssey</b>							
1 Calypso	: The House	: 8 a.m.	: kidney	: economics	: orange	: nymph	narrative (mature)
2 Lotuscaters	: The Bath	: 10 a.m.	: genitals	: botany, chemistry	:	: eucharist	narcissism
3 Hades	: The Graveyard	: 11 a.m.	: heart	: religion	: white, black	: caretaker	incubism
4 Eolus	: The Newspaper	: 12 noon	: lungs	: rhetoric	: red	: editor	enthymenic
5 Lestrygonians	: The Lunch	: 1 p.m.	: esophagus	: architecture	:	: constables	peristaltic
6 Scylla and Carybdis	: The Library	: 2 p.m.	: brain	: literature	:	: Stratford, London	dialectic
7 Wandering Rocks	: The Streets	: 3 p.m.	: blood	: mechanics	:	: citizens	labyrinth
8 Sirens	: The Concert Room	: 4 p.m.	: ear	: music	:	: barmaids	fuga per canonem
9 Cyclops	: The Tavern	: 5 p.m.	: muscle	: politics	:	: fenian	gigantism
10 Nausikaa	: The Rocks	: 8 p.m.	: eye, nose	: painting	: grey, blue	: virgin	tumescence, detumescence
11 Oxen of Sun	: The Hospital	: 10 p.m.	: womb	: medicine	: white	: mothers	embryonic development
12 Circe	: The Brothel	: 12 midnight	: locomotor apparatus	: magic	:	: whore	hallucination
<b>III Nostos</b>							
1 Eumeus	: The Shelter	: 1 a.m.	: nerves	: navigation	:	: sailors	narrative (old)
2 Ithaca	: The House	: 2 a.m.	: skeleton	: science	:	: comets	catechism (impersonal)
3 Penelope	: The Bed	:	: flesh	:	:	: earth	monologue (female)





# The Mythical Method

- Giving a mythical frame to a contemporary work:

## WHY?

1. allows artists to demonstrate the gap between present and past
2. keeps together the fragments of Western civilization





**PAST**



**PRESENT**

whole

fertile

certain

glorious

happy

fragmented

sterile

uncertain

alienating

unhappy



**Mythical**

**Method**





## BLOOM (Odysseus)

- Bloom is a seller of newspaper ads and an impresario or conductor for a singing tour that includes his wife and her lover.
- Bloom's head is full of utopian visions and inventions.
- He also delights in everyday sensual pleasures, like breakfast and baths.
- He is Jewish, although he does not practice Judaism.



# Bloom - Svevo

- Leopold Bloom was written to be a literary manifestation of Joyce himself, but others claim Joyce modelled him on a close friend, Ettore Schmidt.
- Schmidt, who wrote under the pseudonym "Italo Svevo," was a fellow writer and good friend of Joyce.
- Bloom and Schmidt shared Jewish heritage, a sense of marginalization in European society, and the determination to navigate a culture they did not entirely feel a part of.
- Scholars also note that Schmidt was someone who Joyce felt genuinely encompassed the "good" qualities in humanity.
- After Schmidt's death, Joyce remarked that, "*Before being a great writer, he was a great man.*"



## MOLLY (Penelope)

- Born on the island of Gibraltar, Molly Bloom is the daughter of an Irish officer, Major Tweedy, and a woman of Gibraltarian/Spanish descent.
- Molly often yields to her impulses for kisses and/or sex, but she is far from the cruel mistress of Bloom's imaginings in the "Circe" episode.
- The ocean-like flow of her desire sometimes pains Bloom, but it is also her strength.
- Ulysses culminates in Molly's interior monologue, a flood of unrestrained thought.





## STEPHEN DEDALUS (Telemachus)

- Stephen chafes against authority: his father, the Catholic Church, the English.
- He is impoverished and ambitious.
- He studied medicine and also wants to be a writer, although at age 22 his talents are still untried.
- A lingering guilt over his mother's death is balanced by a strong desire to escape the clutches of his miserable family.





**Heroic**



**Inconclusive**



**Faithful**



**Unfaithful**



**Wants to put together his family**



**Rejects his family**





# Dried Tubers

- Once emptied of their symbolic meaning, the three characters show all their complexity and fragility.
- They do not belong to a whole any longer.
- What remains is a series of fragments of their thoughts and experiences.
- Same effect of the Waste Land.



# PLOT

- Leopold Bloom, a middle-aged Dubliner, leaves his home at eight o'clock on a Thursday morning in June.
- He spends the whole day wandering about Dublin, meeting people, thinking to his past life, to the unfaithfulness of his wife, Molly, and to the death of their little son.
- In a brothel he meets a young artist, Stephen Dedalus, who is completely drunk, and rescues him from a fight.
- He takes Stephen home with him, at two in the morning.
- In a short time Stephen leaves. Molly, who's trying to get asleep, does not even hear them coming.
- The events are narrated in the chronological order, but flashbacks and anticipations continually occur in the characters' minds





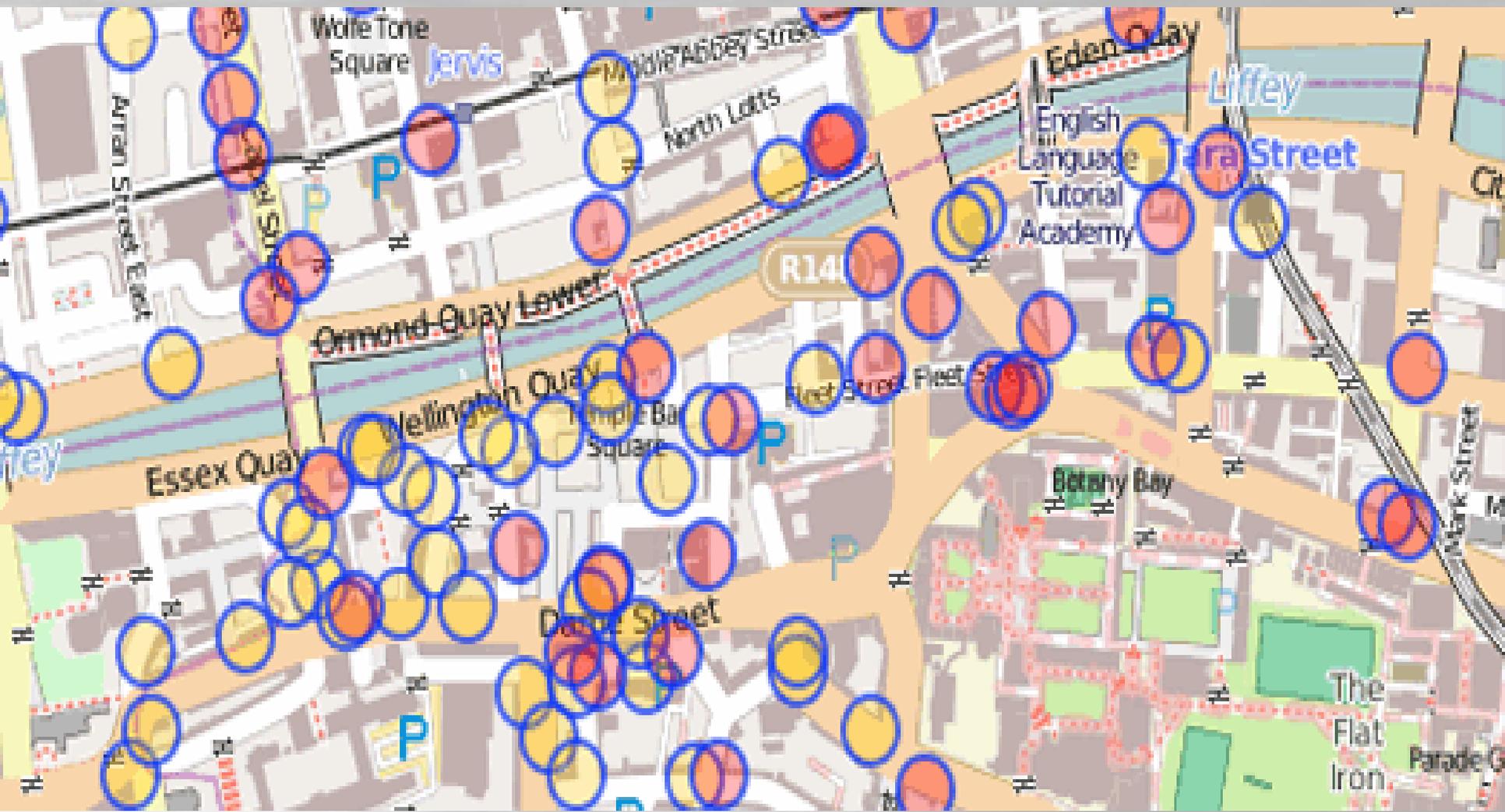
## TIMELINE OF EVENTS –JUNE 16,1904

- 8.00 a.m. Stephen resolves not to sleep at Martello Tower.
- 8.00 a.m. Bloom eats breakfast
- 10.00 a.m. Stephen teaches class and gets paid
- 10.00 a.m. Bloom reads a secret erotic letter.
- 11.00 a.m. Stephen philosophizes on the beach.
- 11.00 a.m. Bloom attends Dignam's funeral.
- 12.00 a.m. Bloom tries to sell an ad; Stephen tells a story.



- 1.00 p.m. Bloom eats lunch
- 2.00 p.m. Stephen theorizes about Hamlet.
- 4.00 p.m. Blazes Boylan visits Molly.
- 5.00 p.m. Bloom encounters "the citizen," the Irish nationalist and anti-Semite.
- 8.00 p.m. Bloom is attracted to Gerty.
- 10.00 p.m. Bloom and Stephen meet at the maternity hospital.
- 12.00 p.m. Bloom and Stephen encounter ghosts and hallucinations.
- 1.00 a.m. Bloom and Stephen rest in a cabman's shelter.
- 2.00 a.m. Bloom and Stephen go to Bloom's house.
- 2.00 a.m. Molly thinks about Boylan and Bloom.







# Themes

- **DEATH** - An ever-present part of their lives, death profoundly affects the characters
- **FATHERS & SONS** - The bond between fathers and sons is presented as fragile and tragic.
- **SEX, LOVE & EMPATHY** - Desire for sex and love, as well as feelings of empathy, motivate the characters





# NARRATIVE STYLES

- Joyce employed many literary genres and styles in *Ulysses*.
- The "Oxen of the Sun" episode contains more than 20 different styles of English prose, from translated Latin to the 18th-century essay and the Gothic novel style.
- Joyce explores traditional third-person style writing and pushes it into unexplored territory..
- The cumulative effect of all the styles is to destabilize the reader's sense that any one style is sufficient or authoritative,.
- As the novel progresses, the shifts in style offer new perspectives on the narrative and the characters.





# STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

- Stream of consciousness represents a character's thoughts and sense impressions more directly than a traditional third-person narrative style might.
- A first-person narrative style differs because it views the world from an individual's perspective.
- A stream of consciousness can transmit the thoughts of any and all characters randomly in time allowing writers great latitude on their exploration of the mind and heart.
- The way it works is ordinarily a character's thoughts are framed so that the reader understands they are thoughts.





# Interior Monologue

- In the "Penelope" episode Joyce uses interior monologue to represent Molly's thoughts directly.
- There are no quotation marks and no interruptions by a narrator; it's almost as if Molly were giving a soliloquy onstage in a play.
- Her interior monologue moves through the story of her whole life—girlhood, her marriage to Bloom, her affair with Boylan, and everything in between.
- The style overcomes her physical limitation as it ranges and flows from present to past, Dublin to Gibraltar.
- Molly's speech lacks punctuation, correct spelling, and proper grammar; her thoughts freely make connections.
- The unruly style of her speech resonates with her unruly passions.



# I said Yes

“...O that awful deep down torrent O and the sea the sea crimson sometimes like fire and the glorious sunsets and the fig trees in the Alameda gardens yes and all the queer little streets and the pink and blue and yellow houses and the rose gardens and the jessamine and geraniums and cactuses and Gibraltar as a girl where I was a Flower of the mountain yes when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls used or shall I wear a red yes and how he kissed me under the Moorish wall and I thought well as well him as another and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again yes and then he asked me would I yes to say yes my mountain flower and first I put my arms around him yes and drew him down to me so he could feel my breasts all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will **Yes.**”





*The End*

