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## *A Portrait of the Artist as A Young Man*

### **Introduction:**

#### **James Joyce and his work, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man***

James Joyce is one of the most celebrated writers of the 20th century, and his work, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, is considered a masterpiece of modernist literature. The novel tells the story of Stephen Dedalus, a young man who struggles to find his place in the world and to reconcile his artistic ambitions with his Catholic upbringing. Joyce's writing style is characterized by its stream-of-consciousness narrative technique, which allows readers to experience Stephen's thoughts and emotions in real-time. Through Stephen's journey, Joyce explores themes such as identity, religion, politics, and art. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is not only a coming-of-age story but also a reflection on the nature of creativity and the role of the artist in society. Joyce's innovative approach to storytelling has had a profound influence on modern literature and continues to inspire readers today.

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is a novel that explores the complexities of growing up and the challenges of finding one's place in the world. However, it is also a profound meditation on the nature of creativity and the role of the artist in society. Joyce's innovative approach to storytelling, which incorporates stream-of-consciousness narration and other experimental techniques, has had a profound influence on modern literature. The novel's significance lies not only in its literary innovations but also in its exploration of themes that continue to resonate with readers today. Through his portrayal of protagonist Stephen Dedalus, Joyce offers a nuanced exploration of issues such as identity, religion, and politics. In doing so, he creates a deeply personal and universally relevant work. *Young Man* remains an essential work of modernist literature and a testament to Joyce's enduring legacy as one of the most innovative writers of his time.

### Summary of *A Portrait of the Artist as A Young Man*

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* follows the life and development of Stephen Dedalus, a young Irishman, from his early childhood to his emergence as an aspiring artist. The novel is divided into five chapters, each representing a different stage in Stephen's life.

**Chapter 1:** This chapter focuses on Stephen's childhood and his early experiences at Clongowes Wood College, a Jesuit boarding school. It introduces the strict religious teachings and disciplinary methods imposed on the students, as well as Stephen's initial conflicts with authority.

**Chapter 2:** Stephen attends Belvedere College, where he excels academically and becomes involved in various intellectual and artistic pursuits. He forms friendships with other students and starts to question his faith, leading to a sense of rebellion against the oppressive religious atmosphere.

**Chapter 3:** Stephen enters the University College Dublin, where he continues to explore his artistic interests and engages in intellectual debates with his peers. He embraces a bohemian lifestyle, indulging in sensual pleasures and rejecting societal norms. However, his excessive behavior leads to inner turmoil and a struggle with guilt.

**Chapter 4:** This chapter delves into Stephen's spiritual and philosophical reflections as he experiences a crisis of faith. He contemplates his relationship with God, the purpose of art, and his own identity. Ultimately, he decides to abandon religion and pursue his artistic calling, symbolically declaring his independence from the constraints of his upbringing.

**Chapter 5:** In the final chapter, Stephen leaves Ireland to escape its cultural and political limitations. He plans to forge his own path as an artist, vowing to create with courage and honesty. The novel concludes with Stephen's resolution to achieve artistic freedom and shape his own destiny.

The plot of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" is driven by Stephen's inner struggles, his intellectual and artistic awakening, and his quest for personal and creative identity. Through his experiences and reflections, the novel explores themes of religion, art, individuality, and the search for meaning in a changing world.

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### المحاضرة الثالثة

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#### **The Major Characters in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*:**

In *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce, there are several significant characters apart from the protagonist, Stephen Dedalus. These characters play important roles in shaping Stephen's experiences, beliefs, and understanding of the world. Here are some of the key characters in the novel:

1. **Simon Dedalus:** Stephen's father, who is a well-meaning but flawed man. He is a storyteller and a somewhat irresponsible figure in Stephen's life. Simon's financial struggles and political beliefs have a significant impact on Stephen's upbringing and worldview.
2. **Mary Dedalus:** Stephen's devoutly Catholic mother, who is deeply committed to her faith. Mary's religious devotion influences Stephen's early understanding of spirituality and guilt. Her conservative nature clashes with Stephen's desire for intellectual freedom.
3. **Dante Riordan:** Stephen's strict and religious aunt. She represents the oppressive and dogmatic aspects of Catholicism. Stephen feels conflicted about Dante's influence on his life, as her strict moral code clashes with his artistic and intellectual aspirations.
4. **Father Arnall:** A Jesuit priest who delivers a fire-and-brimstone sermon that deeply affects Stephen. His sermon on the horrors of hell leaves a lasting impression on Stephen's consciousness and contributes to his religious anxieties.
5. **Cranly:** Stephen's close friend and confidant at university. Cranly is a source of support and intellectual companionship for Stephen. He listens to Stephen's doubts

and frustrations, offering a rational perspective while respecting Stephen's artistic ambitions.

6. **Emma Clery:** A young girl with whom Stephen develops a romantic interest in during his adolescence. Emma represents Stephen's exploration of his emerging sexuality and desire for romantic connection.
7. **Davin:** A fellow student at university and a nationalist. Davin's friendship with Stephen exposes him to the political tensions and nationalist sentiments of the time. Davin serves as a foil to Stephen's own beliefs and desires.

These characters, along with others encountered by Stephen throughout the novel, contribute to his journey of self-discovery, shaping his worldview and challenging his beliefs as he navigates the complexities of religion, art, and personal identity.

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#### المحاضرة الرابعة

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### Major themes in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is a novel that explores a wide range of themes, from the individual struggle for self-discovery to broader societal and cultural concerns. Here are some of the key themes in the novel:

1. **Identity:** A central theme in the novel is Stephen's struggle to define his own identity and to assert himself as an individual. He is torn between his Catholic upbringing, his artistic aspirations, and his desire to rebel against societal expectations.
2. **Religion:** Religion is a pervasive theme in the novel, as Stephen grapples with his Catholic faith and the strict religious teachings of his school. He ultimately rejects religion as an oppressive force that stifles creativity and individuality.
3. **Art and creativity:** Stephen's artistic pursuits are a significant part of the novel, and Joyce explores the creative process and the role of the artist in society.

Through Stephen's journey, the novel suggests that art is a powerful means of self-expression and a way to transcend the limitations of societal norms.

4. **Family and society:** Stephen's relationships with his family and with broader society shape his journey and influence his development. The novel explores the tensions between individuality and conformity and suggests that the individual must often reject societal expectations in order to achieve true self-realization.
5. **National identity:** The novel is set in Ireland during a period of political and cultural upheaval, and Joyce explores questions of Irish national identity and the role of the artist in shaping the nation's cultural identity.
6. **Sexuality:** Stephen's exploration of his own sexuality is a significant part of the novel, as he grapples with questions of desire, morality, and societal norms.

These are just a few of the many themes that Joyce explores in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. The novel is a rich and complex work that continues to resonate with readers today.

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### المحاضرة الخامسة

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#### **Symbolism in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man***

James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is a novel that is rich in symbolism, with many of its characters, objects, and events representing deeper themes and ideas. Here are some examples of the most significant symbols in the novel:

1. **Birds:** Throughout the novel, birds are a recurring symbol that represents freedom, escape, and transcendence. For example, when Stephen is young, he imagines himself as a bird flying over the fields of Ireland. Later, when he is struggling to break free from his family and his Catholic upbringing, he again thinks of himself as a bird.
2. **Water:** Water is a powerful symbol of rebirth and renewal in the novel. Stephen has several transformative experiences near bodies of water, such as when he wades into the sea and experiences a moment of epiphany. Water is also

associated with baptism, a key religious ritual that is central to Stephen's upbringing.

3. **Colors:** Colors are used symbolically throughout the novel, representing different emotions and ideas. For example, the color green is associated with Ireland and with Stephen's desire to break free from British colonialism. Red is associated with passion and desire, while black represents death and mourning.
4. **The "moocow":** In the novel's opening scene, Stephen is fascinated by a cow in a field and imagines it as a "moocow." This symbol represents Stephen's early fascination with language and his desire to use it to transform the world around him.
5. **The "net":** In one of the novel's most famous scenes, Stephen imagines himself caught in a net, struggling to break free. This symbol represents the constraints of societal norms and expectations, which Stephen must break free from in order to become a true artist.
6. **The maze:** In the novel, a maze represents the complexities and challenges of Stephen's journey towards self-discovery and artistic realization. It reflects the labyrinthine nature of his thoughts, emotions, and experiences as he navigates through the obstacles and choices in his life.
7. **The song "Kathleen":** The sentimental Irish song "Kathleen" is used as a symbol of traditional Irish culture and Stephen's conflicted feelings towards it. The song evokes a sense of nostalgia and longing for a simpler, more innocent time, but also represents the constraints and expectations that Stephen seeks to break free from.
8. **Mirrors and reflections:** Mirrors and reflections symbolize self-awareness and introspection throughout the novel. Stephen often contemplates his own image and tries to understand his evolving identity and artistic aspirations by examining his reflection.

## **Analysis of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man***

### **Chapter 1:**

Chapter 1 of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce is an important introduction to the novel's protagonist, Stephen Dedalus. The chapter provides background information about Stephen's family, childhood, and education.

The chapter begins with a description of Stephen's earliest memories, which are hazy and dreamlike. Joyce uses sensory details, such as the sound of his mother's singing and the smell of his father's tobacco, to create a vivid picture of Stephen's early years.

Stephen's family is Catholic and deeply religious, and his father is a strict disciplinarian. Stephen is sent to a Jesuit school, where he is exposed to the strict and often oppressive teachings of the Catholic Church. The chapter depicts the conflict between Stephen's desire for intellectual and artistic freedom and the expectations of his family and the Church.

Joyce also introduces the theme of language and its importance to Stephen. Stephen is fascinated by words and their meanings, and he often plays with language in his mind. This fascination with language will continue to be a major theme throughout the novel.

Overall, Chapter 1 sets the stage for the novel's exploration of the tension between individual freedom and societal expectations, and establishes Stephen as a complex and introspective character.

## **Chapter 2:**

Chapter 2 of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" further delves into Stephen Dedalus's early years as he progresses through his education at Clongowes Wood College, a prestigious boarding school.

The chapter begins with Stephen's arrival at Clongowes, highlighting his initial feelings of alienation and homesickness. He struggles to adapt to the strict and hierarchical environment of the school, where he is subjected to bullying and harsh discipline. This serves to highlight the theme of the individual's struggle against oppressive institutions and social norms.

Stephen's experience at Clongowes is marked by his interactions with his classmates and teachers. He befriends a boy named Aubrey Mills, who introduces him to the world of literature and encourages his love for storytelling. However, Stephen's intellectual curiosity often clashes with the rigid academic curriculum enforced by the school. He finds solace in his imagination and daydreams, seeking refuge from the mundane and oppressive aspects of his surroundings.

Religion continues to play a significant role in Stephen's life, as he grapples with his emerging doubts and questions about the teachings of the Catholic Church. The chapter portrays the influence of religious guilt and the fear of damnation on Stephen's young mind.

Chapter 2 highlights Stephen's growing sense of self-awareness and his budding desire for intellectual and artistic freedom. It sets the stage for his eventual rebellion against societal expectations and the pursuit of his own path as an artist.

Through the exploration of Stephen's experiences at Clongowes, Joyce addresses themes such as the conflict between conformity and individuality, the impact of education on

personal development, and the struggle to find one's own voice and identity in a restrictive society.

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### المحاضرة الثامنة

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#### **Chapter 3:**

Chapter 3 of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" continues Stephen Dedalus's journey, now as a student at Belvedere College. This chapter explores Stephen's burgeoning intellectual and artistic pursuits, his shifting relationships with his peers, and his ongoing internal struggle with religion and morality.

The chapter begins with Stephen's growing interest in literature and his fascination with language. He becomes part of a group of friends who engage in intellectual discussions and literary debates, showcasing his desire for intellectual stimulation and his hunger for knowledge. This group also introduces Stephen to the works of various writers, such as Byron and Shelley, who challenge conventional norms and inspire his own artistic ambitions.

At Belvedere College, Stephen's relationship with his classmates evolves. He becomes part of a more privileged and socially connected circle, experiencing a sense of camaraderie and rivalry simultaneously. The chapter explores themes of friendship, competition, and the complexities of social dynamics among young men.

Stephen's inner conflict with religion deepens in this chapter. He begins to question the strict moral code imposed by the Catholic Church, particularly in matters of sin and sexuality. His emerging sexual desires and the perceived hypocrisy of religious figures further contribute to his growing disillusionment with organized religion. The tension between Stephen's natural instincts and the repressive nature of Catholicism becomes a central theme throughout the novel.

Through Stephen's experiences at Belvedere College, Joyce delves into themes of intellectual awakening, artistic ambition, the search for personal and creative freedom, and the clash between religious doctrine and individual exploration. This chapter marks

an important stage in Stephen's development as he starts to distance himself from societal expectations and begins to shape his own identity as an artist.

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### المحاضرة التاسعة

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#### **Chapter 4:**

Chapter 4 of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" continues to delve into Stephen Dedalus's life as he transitions to university at University College Dublin. This chapter explores Stephen's experiences with nationalism, politics, and romantic relationships, while also delving deeper into his artistic aspirations and his ongoing struggle with religion.

The chapter begins with Stephen's immersion in a fervent nationalist movement, where he is swept up in the political fervor and rhetoric of his peers. He passionately engages in discussions about Irish identity, cultural heritage, and the desire for independence from British rule. Stephen's involvement in the nationalist movement showcases his search for a sense of belonging and his desire to connect with something larger than himself.

Within this nationalist context, Stephen also experiences a romantic relationship with a girl named Emma. The relationship serves as a symbol of Stephen's exploration of desire and emotional connection. However, Stephen ultimately breaks off the relationship, feeling constrained by the conventional expectations and societal pressures of romantic involvement.

Throughout the chapter, Stephen's struggle with religion and morality continues to evolve. He engages in philosophical and theological discussions, questioning the nature

of sin and the concepts of heaven and hell. His rejection of Catholicism becomes more pronounced as he embraces a more individualistic and rebellious mindset.

Furthermore, the chapter delves into Stephen's artistic pursuits, as he starts to write poetry and grapples with the idea of finding his own unique voice as an artist. He seeks inspiration from various sources, such as nature and the works of notable writers, while also grappling with self-doubt and the fear of criticism.

Chapter 4 further develops the themes of individualism, artistic exploration, the clash between societal expectations and personal desires, and the ongoing conflict between Stephen's religious upbringing and his emerging intellectual and creative pursuits. It portrays Stephen's continued journey towards self-discovery and the formation of his artistic identity.

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### *المحاضرة العاشرة*

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#### **Chapter 5:**

Chapter 5 of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" marks a significant turning point in Stephen Dedalus's life as he makes a decisive break from his religious and nationalistic influences, embracing a more independent and self-defined path as an artist.

The chapter opens with Stephen's experiences during his summer vacation from university. He spends time with his family and reflects on his past, particularly his childhood and his family's religious devotion. However, Stephen's dissatisfaction with his religious upbringing becomes even more pronounced as he rejects the dogmatic teachings of the Catholic Church and embraces a more secular and individualistic worldview.

During this period, Stephen also explores his sexuality and engages in various encounters, which serve as catalysts for his growing sense of independence and self-discovery. These experiences challenge the prevailing societal norms and moral codes of his time, further separating him from the strictures of his Catholic upbringing.

As the chapter progresses, Stephen's intellectual and artistic pursuits take center stage. He begins to immerse himself in philosophical texts, exploring ideas of aesthetics, beauty, and the role of the artist in society. His encounter with the works of Aquinas and Aristotle influences his understanding of art and leads him to reject the strictures of nationalist propaganda, embracing a more universal and timeless perspective.

Ultimately, the chapter culminates in Stephen's decision to leave Ireland and pursue his artistic ambitions abroad. He sees his departure as necessary to break free from the constraints of his cultural and religious background, believing that he can only find true artistic fulfillment by leaving behind familiar surroundings.

Chapter 5 delves into themes of individualism, artistic rebellion, the rejection of societal expectations, and the pursuit of personal freedom and self-expression. It represents a pivotal moment in Stephen's journey as he fully embraces his identity as an artist, shedding the influences and constraints of his upbringing in favor of a more independent and authentic existence.

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