



## James Joyce, *Ulysses*

The Irish writer James Joyce was a key figure in English literature thanks to his innovative use of language and literary techniques.

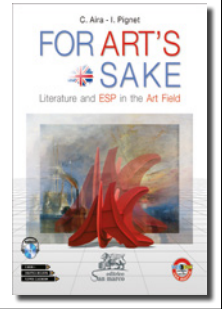
The complex structure of his masterpiece *Ulysses* and the protagonists suggest the author conceived the novel as a counterpart to Homer's *The Odyssey*.

All the events described in the novel take place on a single day (June 16, 1944) in Dublin. Leopold Bloom, an Irish Jew, mirrors Odysseus; Stephen Dedalus, an artist back from exile, reflects Telemachus; Molly Bloom, the unfaithful wife of Leopold, is the equivalent of Penelope.

The novel is divided into three parts: Telemachia, Odyssey and Nostos. Each of them focused on its corresponding main character. With the brilliant use of interior monologue, Joyce reminds us that our moral aims are constantly put in danger by our mind and unconscious world.

The book is most famous for its use of the stream-of-consciousness, a variant of the interior monologue technique. Joyce's intention is to replicate the ways in which thoughts sometimes crowd a person's mind and there is no possibility of a clear and straight way through life. By doing so he opened up a whole new way of writing fiction that recognized that the moral rules by which we might try to govern our lives are constantly at the mercy of accident, chance encounter, and unpredictable roads of the mind.

C. Aira - I. Pignet  
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### ACTIVITIES

- 1 Read again Molly's monologue at page 139 of the book, then try to write your own monologue following your daily thoughts.

