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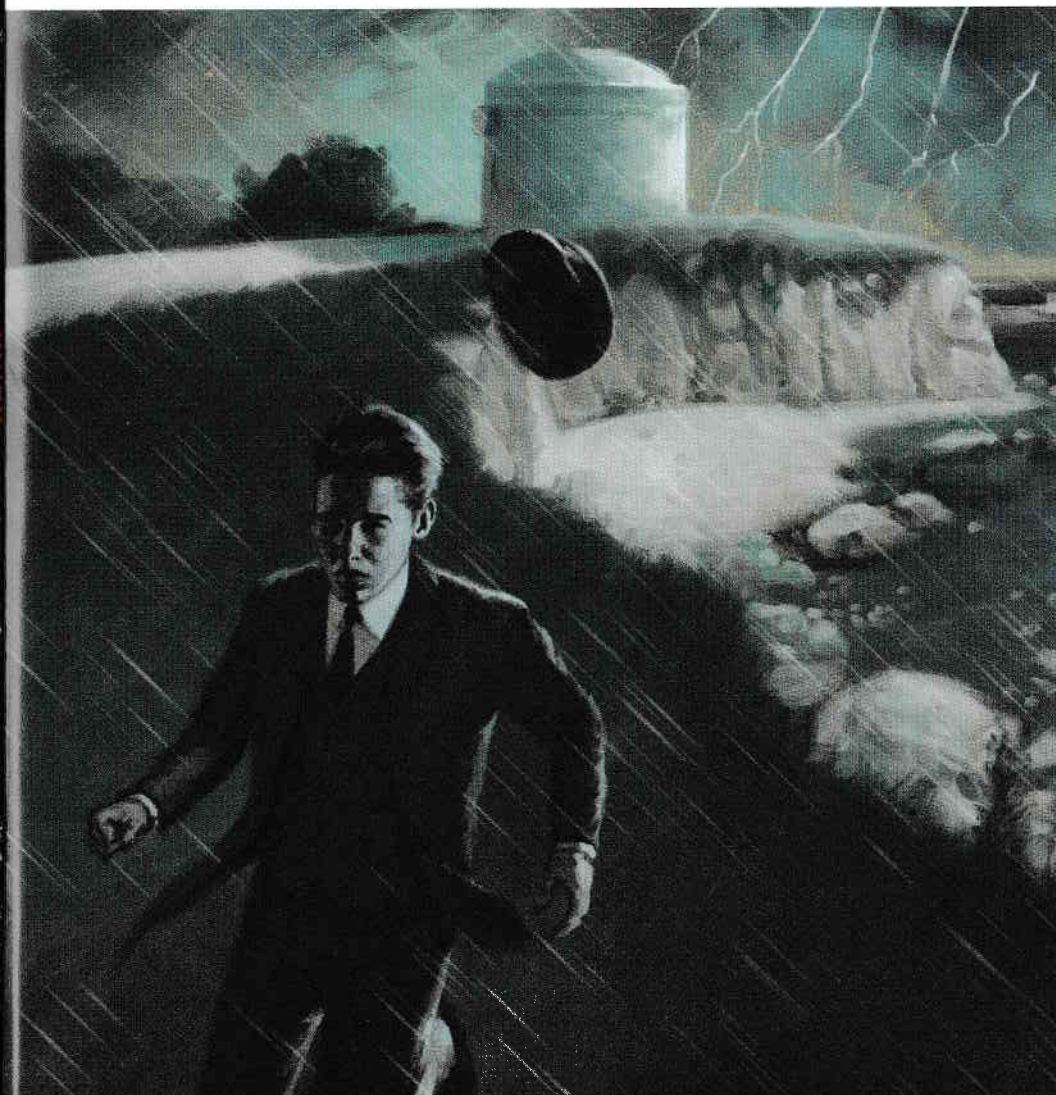
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WWW

Joseph Quinn

# James Joyce The Magic of Language

Illustrated by Franco Rivolli





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First edition: January 2023

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Printed in Italy by Italgrafica

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**B2 FIRST** This icon indicates B2 First-style activities

**T: GRADE 7** This icon indicates Trinity-style activities

**n. track**  THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED.



## CHAPTER ONE

# Dubliner

(1882-1892)



track 02

**I**n the small Austrian town of Feldkirch, an unusual event took place at the railway station several times in August 1932. Two men walked arm in arm onto the station platform just before 7 p.m. They were both tall, one was thin, and the other less so. The thin man carried a cane<sup>1</sup> and wore dark glasses.

Minutes later, the daily Paris-Vienna train stopped for ten minutes. The thin man approached the side of the train and touched the shape of the letters on the destination plate<sup>2</sup> that was written in different languages. He couldn't see the letters very well as he was almost blind, but he felt them with his long, delicate

1. cane:



2. destination plate: a metal sign showing the destination of a train.



fingers. Then the thin man turned to his friend.

'Eugene, describe the people getting on and off the train for me for a moment,' he said.

After Eugene's description, the thin man listened with delight to the different languages that the passengers were speaking. He loved languages; for him, language had power, wonderful sounds and a certain magic. When the train left, he always took off his hat and waved goodbye to the train.

His name was James Joyce, one of the most noted, controversial and experimental<sup>3</sup> writers in English literature. In his lifetime, Joyce wrote only four major works, *Dubliners*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*. Each of these works is written in a different style. They become progressively difficult, from the ordinary short stories of *Dubliners* to the enigmatic *Finnegans Wake* in which Joyce invents a language that experts are still trying to understand today. Joyce wrote in many different styles, but he wrote about only one subject and that was the capital city of Ireland, Dublin, where he was born and grew up.

In his works, Joyce describes Dublin at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the time, it was a small, crowded city with a population of just over 300,000. Families were large and united, the main religion was Catholic, and revolution was in the air. Ireland had been under British rule for four hundred years, and a rebellion in Dublin in 1916 led to Irish independence soon after.

Dublin was also an important cultural centre and had produced important writers such as Jonathan Swift, Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde and Bram Stoker. But the young James Joyce asked himself, 'Why has no Dublin writer

3. experimental: using new ideas, forms and methods.

**B2 FIRST** For questions 1-8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

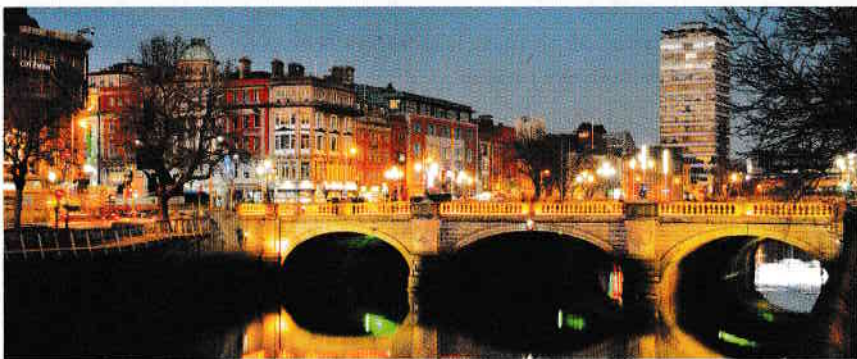
**Dublin city**

Dublin was founded (0) .....by..... the Vikings in the 9<sup>th</sup> century on the east coast of Ireland. The city is divided north-south by the River Liffey, (1) ..... over twenty bridges connecting the two parts of the city.

In the 1990s, Ireland experienced a period of rapid economic growth. (2) ..... a result, Dublin became the European headquarters for many of the world's biggest information and communications technology companies. It is sometimes (3) ..... as the 'Tech Capital of Europe'.

Today, the city has a population of over 500,000 people and receives (4) ..... to three million tourists per year. Dublin is well-known for (5) ..... hospitality and friendly atmosphere. There are hundreds of pubs in the city (6) ..... visitors can try Ireland's most famous beer – Guinness.

Dublin's Phoenix Park is Europe's largest enclosed urban park, with a land perimeter of eleven kilometres, and is situated on the north bank of the Liffey. You can find the residence of the President of Ireland (7) ..... , and it is home to about four hundred deer (8) ..... live freely in the park.



O'Connell Bridge, Dublin

**... they were attacked by a stray dog ...**

In the example above, the verb is in the **passive form** and it tells us what **happens** to the subject.

In the example below, the verb is in the **active form** and it tells us what the subject **does**.

*A stray dog **attacked** them.*

The subject has more importance in a sentence. Depending on which element we want to give more importance to, we choose to use the active or passive form.

The **passive** is formed with the verb **be** in an **appropriate tense** and the **past participle**.

When we convert an active sentence into a passive sentence, the tense of the verb **be** in the **passive** sentence must be the **same** as the tense of the **verb** in the **active** sentence.

*A stray dog **attacked** them.* (Past simple)

*They **were** attacked by a stray dog.* (Past simple)

**Grammar: passive form**

**4** Change the active sentences into passive sentences.

- 1 The park was closed because they were filming a movie there.  
The park was closed because a movie ..... there.
- 2 They have cancelled the concert again.  
The concert ..... again.
- 3 Peter's company gave him a present when he retired.  
Peter ..... a present by his company when he retired.
- 4 Dangerous driving causes most accidents.  
Most accidents ..... by dangerous driving.
- 5 They are preparing the room for the meeting.  
The room ..... for the meeting.
- 6 The meat tasted awful because Dad had cooked it too long.  
The meat tasted awful because it ..... too long.
- 7 They should repair this road. It's in very bad condition.  
This road ..... It's in very bad condition.