

Discussion in Brief 1

- ⇒ What is your opinion about the title --- *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* --- of the novel?
- ⇒ Why does a person want to be an artist?
- ⇒ How can a person become an artist? (i.e., imagination vis-à-vis re/presentation)
- ⇒ What are the advantages and disadvantages of becoming an artist?

Discussion in Brief 2

- ⇒ What do you know about a young man's expectations and frustrations?
- ⇒ What do you think about a young man's pains and pleasures?
- ⇒ How do you evaluate a young man's personality and psychology?
- ⇒ How do you explain a young man's deal with imagination and reality?
- ⇒ Which issues play a vital role for a young man's proper intellectual growth?

Discussion in Brief 3

- ⇒ Why do people commit a "~~mortal~~ sin"?
- ⇒ Why do people lament and/or confess?

Discussion in Brief 4

- ⇒ What is reality? (a life with sinners vs. a life with god(wo)man)
- ⇒ Where is reality? (a life outside a place for worship vs. a life inside a place for worship)
- ⇒ What is your opinion about Satan's "*non serviam*"?
- ⇒ Why do many of us possess 'Satanesque'/Satanic approach/attitude?

Discussion in Brief 5

- ⇒ Who was/is Dedalus? (Daedalus was a **clever inventor** and he was a skillful architect by profession. ... In Greek mythology, **Daedalus** was a skillful architect and craftsman, seen as a symbol of wisdom, knowledge and power. He is the father of Icarus ... It was during this escape that Icarus did not heed his father's warnings and flew too close to the sun; the wax holding his wings together melted and Icarus fell to his death.)
- ⇒ Are you a Dedalus by nature?

From *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

- ⇒ **Why has James Joyce said it? ---** He leaves Ireland for the Continent, in search of his artistic soul.
- ⇒ **How will you evaluate Stephen as a ‘modern’ hero?**
- ⇒ Moving from Stephen's infancy to his early days at **Clongowes Wood College, a Jesuit boarding school for boys**, Joyce focuses on three key incidents which significantly affect Stephen's personality. **First**, Stephen is pushed into an open cesspool by a bullying classmate, and, subsequently, he develops a fever which confines him to the school infirmary; here, he begins to discern that he is "different," that **he is an outsider**.
- ⇒ **Later, when he is probably six years old**, Stephen returns home to celebrate Christmas dinner with his family and is invited, for the first time, to sit with the adults at the dinner table. This extraordinarily happy occasion is marred by a heated political argument between Stephen's old nurse, Dante Riordan, and a dinner guest, Mr. Casey, **leaving Stephen confused about the issues of religion and politics in the adult world**.
- ⇒ **On returning to school**, Stephen accidentally breaks his glasses and is unable to complete his classwork. He is unjustly humiliated and punished by the cruel prefect of studies, but after receiving encouragement from a friend, Stephen bravely (if fearfully) goes to the rector of the school and obtains justice. **The success of this meeting instills in him a healthy self-confidence and ennobles him, for a moment, in the eyes of his classmates**.
- ⇒ **After a brief summer vacation at his home in Blackrock**, Stephen learns that his father's financial reversals make it impossible to return to Clongowes Wood; instead, **he is enrolled in a less prestigious Jesuit day school, Belvedere College**. Despite these accomplishments, however, **Stephen feels increasingly alienated from his schoolmates because of his growing religious skepticism and his deep interest in literature and writing**. This feeling of isolation is intensified during a trip with his father to Cork, where he learns more about his father's weaknesses.
- ⇒ **After wandering through the city's brothel district**, he finds momentary solace with a Dublin prostitute. He is fourteen years old, and this is his first sexual experience.
- ⇒ **After a period of “sinful living”**, Stephen attends an intense three-day spiritual retreat.
- ⇒ Noticing Stephen's exceedingly pious behavior, the director of the school arranges a meeting to encourage Stephen to consider entering the priesthood. At first, **Stephen is flattered, fascinated by the possibilities of the clerical life, but increasingly he is tormented by carnal desires**. He finally realizes that his “inherent sinful nature” makes it necessary for him to reject a religious vocation.
- ⇒ Having made this discovery about himself, Stephen decides to enroll in the university, where he hopes to shape his destiny as an artist. This decision is immediately followed by a climactic “**epiphany**”: he sees a girl wading in the sea; to Stephen, she embodies the attraction, the promise, and the abandon which he wishes to experience in life. **It is at this moment that Stephen understands that he can only hope to gain this experience through a life of artistic expression**.
- ⇒ Shortly thereafter, **Stephen begins a new life as a young man in search of his own values and his own credo**.
- ⇒ He is not the typical devil-may-care university student; he rejects the typical blind patriotic blather, and although he continues to respect the Catholic faith, he no longer believes that its tenets should govern his life. Through conversations with friends and

a dean of studies, Stephen eventually develops his own aesthetic theory of art, based on the philosophies of Aristotle and Aquinas. Simultaneously, he concludes that if he is ever going to find his artistic soul, he must sever all bonds of faith, family, and country. He must leave Dublin and go abroad to "forge" his soul's "uncreated conscience."

⇒ **Sample Question:** Seamus Deane has argued that “*A portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) ends with a beginning.” What has James Joyce wanted to say about the intellectual development of Stephen Dedalus by such ending? In addition to the discussion of Joyce’s aim, share your opinion about the role of different voices belonging to siren, women, priest et cetera too which have played the most significant role in case of making Dedalus a Dedalus at the end of the text.
