



PRESTWICK HOUSE

Activity Pack

DUBLINERS

BY JAMES JOYCE



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Item No. 305380

Written by Ashley Brown

Name: _____

Date: _____

“The Sisters”

Imagery and Mood

Objectives: Closely reading the text, paying particular attention to sensory images
Explaining how sensory images create mood

Activity

While the mood of a short story or a novel frequently goes unnoticed, it is an essential part of the text. By cleverly describing the setting or the characters' actions, the writer is using sensory images with strong word connotations to evoke feelings in the reader. Those emotions may create suspense, help the reader connect with the characters of the story, or illustrate a prominent theme or message.

One clichéd ghost story begins with the phrase, “It was a dark and stormy night....” Even though the average reader may not understand how the simple opening establishes mood, he or she will most likely experience a feeling of worry and fear, anticipating a frightening event to occur. A more perceptive reader would realize that the words *dark*, *stormy*, and *night*, evoke these feelings: Since it is difficult to see in darkness and at night, shadows hide mysteries and prevent them from being discovered. The darkness could hide a dangerous creature, or it could hide a crime. The storm adds energy and tension to the scene, especially since bad weather traps people indoors, could potentially harm a person who ventures outside, and is frequently associated with ghosts. Using only three words, the writer creates the mood for the horror story.

Re-read the passage in this section beginning with “In the evening my aunt took me with her to visit the house of mourning,” and ending with “No one spoke: we all gazed at the empty fire place.” Pay close attention to the diction Joyce uses when he describes the home and the body of Father Flynn. The images presented may appeal to the sense of sight, hearing, taste, touch, or smell.

In the first column of the following chart, record three sensory images in the text that describe Father Flynn's home. Underline key words or phrases in the quote that are connotative or that evoke particular feelings. Record and explain these feelings and ideas in the second column. Then, after you have completed the first two columns, complete the third by explaining what the mood of the scene is. An example has been provided for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“An Encounter”**Adventure Collage****Objective:** Creating a collage to illustrate ideas**Activity**

As a release from the monotony of school, the narrator and his friends act out battle scenes from books about the Wild West. Although these dramatizations satisfy their need for excitement and adventure, they are not the type of adventures that the narrator is interested in. He soon becomes as bored with the reenactments as he is with school, and he realizes that the only way to truly experience the thrill of adventure is to actively go out and seek it.

The narrator's idea of an adventure is to skip school with a few friends to explore Dublin for the day. What is your idea of an adventure? If you had one day to do something adventurous, what would you do? Create a collage of your ideal adventure. Use any materials available to you to illustrate your ideas: words and pictures from magazines, newspapers, the Internet, photographs, markers, colored pencils, etc. In addition, you can add dimension by gluing fabric, small items, and other materials to your collage. Be creative, and include as many details as possible.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Araby”**Writing a Love Letter****Objective:** Writing as a character in the story**Activity**

It appears as though the narrator of “Araby” has had a crush on Mangan’s sister for a long time. His love for her is not unrequited, but it is unknown to her; he is too intimidated by the girl to express his true feelings. Instead, he watches her at her front door, daydreams about her all the time, and cries out for her when he knows no one can hear him.

As the narrator, write a love letter to Mangan’s sister that tells her how you feel. Make sure to include the thoughts and emotions the narrator expresses in the text, but feel free to be creative.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Eveline”**Eveline's Journal**

Objectives: Understanding character motivation
Writing from the perspective of a character in the story

Activity

At the beginning of the story, Eveline plans to leave Dublin and travel to Buenos Ayres with her fiancé, Frank. The decision is a difficult one for her to make, and as romantic as she expects her new life to be, she is hesitant to leave her father and her home. As Eveline, write a journal entry in which you explore the reasons why you should go to Buenos Ayres, and conversely, why you should stay behind. You may create additional information about Eveline, her relationship with Frank, and her family history, but try to stay as true to the text as possible.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“After the Race”**Social Networking****Objective:** Creating an online “Blog” page for a character**Activity**

Social networking was almost as important in the early twentieth century as it is now. Social status was determined by who you were, whom you were seen with, and where you went. Gossiping was as widely practiced then as it is now, perhaps even more.

Social networking today, however, has taken on a different meaning. The term most commonly refers to the variety of websites available on the Internet to communicate with friends, family, and classmates. Blogging is an effective method of keeping others up-to-date about what’s going on in our lives, and it’s a great way to make new friends and business connections through people we already know.

Use the template provided to create a blog for one of the characters in “After the Race,” similar to those that are found on “MySpace” and “Facebook.” You may chose from one of the following characters:

- Jimmy Doyle
- Charles Ségouin
- André Rivière
- Villona

You could write the blog from the perspective of the character in 20th century Dublin, or you could write it as if the character lives in today’s society. You will need to infer some information from the text to complete parts of the blog. Use your imagination, but stay true to the character’s personality. Be sure to keep the content appropriate for the classroom.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Two Gallants”**Word Usage****Objective:** Analyzing the significance of slang**Activity**

In order to create realistic dialogue between Corley and Lenehan, Joyce includes some 20th century Irish slang into their speech, injecting humor and creating a feeling of authenticity in the story. Additionally, slang often helps characterize people in the story, revealing their social class, their values, and their relationships with other characters.

For instance, in order to express his approval of Corley's speech, the servile Lenehan repeatedly says, “That takes the biscuit,” or variations of that phrase, rather than stating, “That's incredible!” In fact, there is a modern-day equivalent of that same phrase: “That takes the cake!”

Slang is frequently used in informal speech, and while most words and phrases can be understood by modern speakers, they may confuse someone from another generation, region, or country. In fact, if someone from the time period when Joyce wrote were to read modern-day slang, he or she would probably need a glossary similar to the one in the back of *Dubliners*.

Create a glossary of slang. On the following chart, list ten slang words or phrases that you use or are familiar with. Then, record their meaning(s) in the second column. The words and phrases you list must be appropriate for the classroom. An example has been provided for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“The Boarding House”**Room for Rent**

Objective: Writing an advertisement for Mrs. Mooney's boarding house

Activity

Mrs. Mooney runs a boarding house, where many young clerks, tourists, and *artistes* stay. As illustrated in the story, Mrs. Mooney recently discovered that one of her boarders, Mr. Doran, has developed a secret relationship with her daughter, Polly. Whether Mr. Doran marries Polly and the two move into their own home, or he does not marry Polly and is forced to move out of the house, Mr. Doran's room will most likely become available for rent.

Write a real estate ad to rent Mr. Doran's room. Use all of the information available in “The Boarding House,” but feel free to include information of your own, as long as it is consistent with what is in the text. Do not use any modern day abbreviations unless specified by your teacher.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“A Little Cloud”**Writing Poetry****Objective:** Expressing ideas through poetry**Activity**

Even though Little Chandler wants to write poetry and become famous, he struggles to connect with his creative side. However, there is evidence that he could be an excellent poet if he put his ideas down on paper. For instance, as he crosses Grattan Bridge and looks at the houses on the quay, he compares them to “a band of tramps, huddled together along the riverbanks, their old coats covered with dust and soot, stupefied by the panorama of sunset and waiting for the first chill of night bid them arise, shake themselves and begone.” The use of metaphor and the vivid imagery indicates that Little Chandler has the ability to think creatively; however, he lacks the confidence to compose a poem.

Based upon what you know about Little Chandler’s temperament, adopt what you believe to be his writing style. Then, construct the poem he considers writing about the houses on Grattan Bridge. The poem may be in whatever style you choose and does not need to rhyme, but it must be at least ten lines in length.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Counterparts”**Termination Notice**

Objectives: Reviewing events in the story
 Creating a termination notice for Farrington

Activity

Imagine that after Farrington reluctantly apologizes to Mr. Alleyne and leaves the office, Mr. Alleyne has a private conference with Mr. Crosbie. The two partners decide that Farrington has not only been insolent, but consistently careless and unreliable. They decide to terminate his employment with the Crosbie & Alleyne law firm.

Complete the Termination Notice that follows, using information from the text. You will have to make some inferences about Farrington for this activity, but make sure that any additional information you include is consistent with his character.