

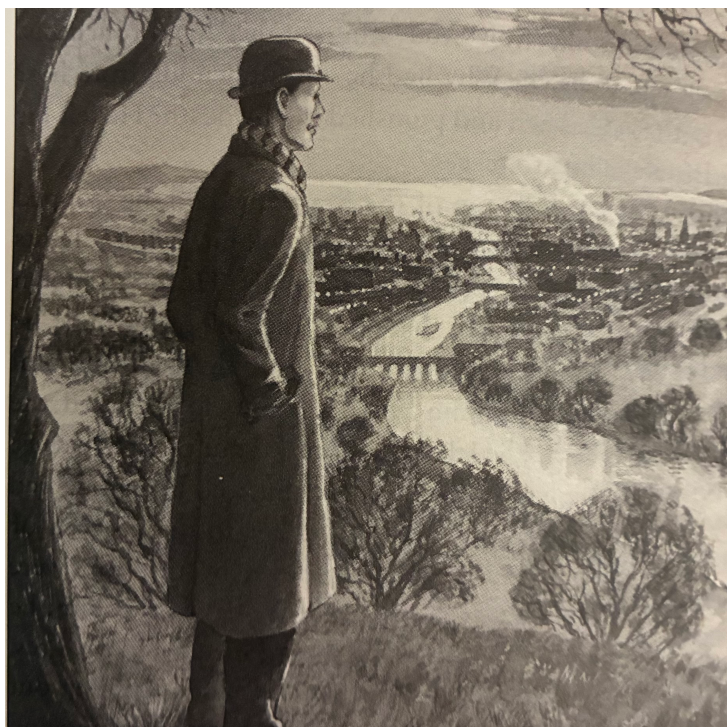


Dubliners: A Painful Case

Skills: Listening, Reading, Information Exchange

Warmer

- Where is this man?
- What is his occupation?
- Imagine his personality
- Describe his personal life



Teacher then provides context by explaining it is Dublin in 1904

Teacher divides class into two groups.

Group A is given the newspaper article below and leave the room to read it

Group B remain the classroom and listen to teacher as he/she reads out the following opening passage from a Painful Case. The students are invited to make notes, draw a picture, or simply close their eyes -while they listen

Teacher reads the following extract

Mr James Duffy lived in Chapelizod, because he wished to live as far as possible from the city of which he was a citizen, and because he found all the other suburbs of Dublin mean, modern, and full of their own importance. He lived in a dark, old house, and from his windows he could look into the disused distillery, where whisky was once made, or upwards along the shallow river on which Dublin is built. The high walls of his uncarpeted room were free from pictures. He had himself bought every piece of furniture in the room: a black iron bed, an iron washstand, four chairs, and a square table on which lay a double desk. A bookcase had been made with shelves of white wood. The bed was covered with white sheets, and at its foot there was a black and red blanket. A little mirror hung above the washstand. The books on the white wooden shelves were arranged from below upwards according to their size. Writing materials were always on the desk. The books on the white wooden helves were arranged from below upwards according to their ize. Writing materials were always on the desk. On lifting the lid of the desk, a faint smell escaped - the smell of new pencils of an apple which might have been left there and forgotten.

Mr Duffy hated anything which showed physical or mental disorder. His face, which carried the complete story of his years, was of the brown colour of Dublin streets. On his long and rather large head grew dry black hair, and a golden-brown moustache did not quite cover an unfriendly mouth. But there was as no hardness in the eyes which, looking at the world from under their golden-brown eyebrows, gave the impression of a man who was always ready to appreciate the good in people, but often disappointed. He never gave money to beggars and walked firmly, carrying a stick.

He had worked for many years in a private bank in Baggot Street. Every morning he came in from Chapelizod by tram. At midday he took a light lunch, and at four o'clock he was free.

He had dinner at an eating-house in George's Street, where he felt safe from the society of Dublin's fashionable youth and where the menu had a certain plain honesty. His evenings were spent either at the piano in his boarding house, or wandering about the outer parts of the city. His liking for Mozart's music brought him sometimes to an opera or a concert; these were the only unnecessary expenses of his life.

He had neither companions nor friends, neither church nor beliefs. He lived his life without any connection with others, visiting his relations at Christmas and accompanying them to the churchyard when they died. He had neither companions nor friends, neither church nor beliefs. He lived his life without any connection with others, visiting his relations at Christmas and accompanying them to the churchyard when they died. He allowed himself to think that in certain circumstances he would rob his bank, but as these circumstances never happened, his life rolled out evenly - an adventureless story.

One evening, he found himself sitting beside two ladies at a concert. The hall, thinly peopled and silent, gave the impression that the concert would be a failure. The lady who sat next to him looked round at the deserted room once or twice, and then said, 'What a pity there is such a poor audience tonight! It's so hard on people to have to sing to empty benches.'

He took the remark as an invitation to talk.

Pairwork

Teacher invites Group A back into the classroom to interview group B using the interview form below.

Teacher then invites Group B to interview Group A about the woman.

Teacher

Establishes conducts feedback and invites learners to guess the connection between the man and women, how they met and what happened.

Homework

Learners read the entire story to see which prediction was the most accurate

THE DUBLIN EVENING HERALD
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1904

A PAINFUL CASE

Today at the City of Dublin Hospital an inquest was held on the body of Mrs Emily Sinico, aged forty-three years, who was killed at Sydney Parade Station yesterday evening. The evidence showed that the dead lady was knocked down by the 10 o'clock slow train from Kingstown, while she was attempting to cross the line. Injuries to her head and right side led to her death.

James Lennon, driver of the engine, stated that, hearing the guard's whistle, he started the train, but stopped it a second or two afterwards in response to loud cries. P. Dunne, a railway worker, stated that he observed a woman attempting to cross the line. He ran towards her and shouted, but before he could reach her, she was hit by the engine and fell to the ground.

Mr H. B. Patterson Finlay, on behalf of the railway company, expressed his deep regret at the accident. The dead lady had been in the habit of crossing the lines late at night from platform to platform, and considering certain other circumstances of the case, he did not think the railway officials were to blame.

Captain Sinico also gave evidence. He stated that the dead lady was his wife. He was not in Dublin at the time of the accident, as he had arrived only that morning from Rotterdam. They had been married for twenty-two years, and had lived happily until about two years ago, when his wife began to behave rather strangely.

Miss Mary Sinico said that recently her mother had been in the habit of going out at night to buy alcohol. She had often tried to talk to her mother about this, and had persuaded her to get help. She was not at home until an hour after the accident.

The court returned a verdict in agreement with the medical evidence, and stated that no blame should be attached to anyone. It was a most painful case, and great sympathy with Captain Sinico was expressed.

MAN

Full Name	
Address	
Occupation	
Marital Status & Family	
Personal problems	
More details of her family	
What happens?	

.....Cut here.....

WOMAN

Full Name	
Address	
Occupation	
Marital Status & Family	
Personality	
Daily Routine	
Description of his home	
What happens?	