

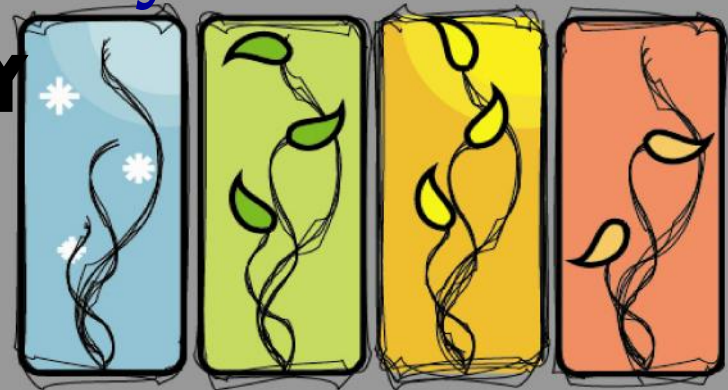
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James Joyce

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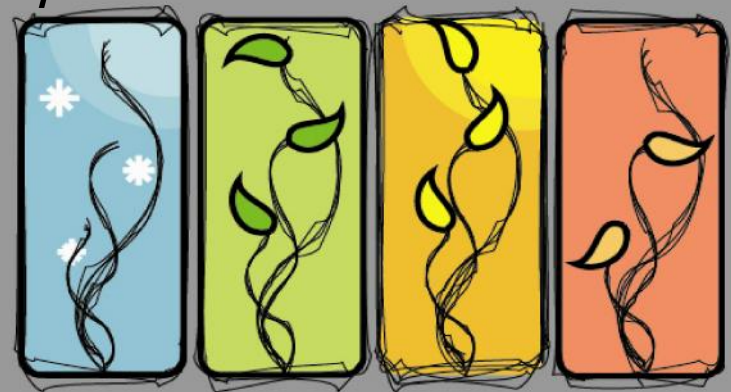
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YOU & THE STORY

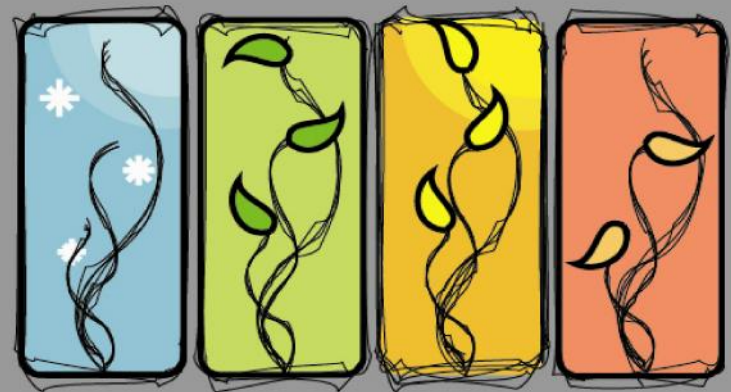
When we try to state the meaning of what happens in a work of fiction, we try to state its **theme**. But in some stories a **thematic passage** sums up the point that the writer want to make:

Gazing up into the darkness, I saw myself as a creature driven & derided by vanity; and my eyes burned with anguish and anger. (Last par.)



In seeing himself as a creature driven by vanity, the speaker chooses a word that has a long history of religious meaning. The word means “prideful aspiration” and “inflated pride in one’s self.”

In your own words, how does the boy view his failure in this thematic passage?
Whom or what does he blame?



A CLOSER LOOK



CROW #design 

James Joyce is known for the very rich texture of his prose.

- He uses the **SETTING** to help mirror the mood that he tries to create (where the story takes place is very important).
- When the boy goes with his aunt on the Saturday evening shopping trips into the loud and crowded streets, he imagines that he is protecting his love (he refers to his love as a *chalice* → *a sacred cup that is used in a religious service*)

- The boy depends upon his uncle for the success of his plan and reminds him of it on Saturday morning. The boy describes his uncle return as follows:

At nine o'clock I heard my uncle's latchkey in the halldoor. I heard him talking to himself and heard the hallstand rocking when it had received the weight of his overcoat. I could interpret these signs. When he was midway through his dinner I asked him to give me the money to go to the bazaar. He had forgotten.

Does the uncle think the boy's visit to the bazaar is important? What does the boy think about his uncle?





- The boy describes the salesgirl at the bazaar as follows:

The tone of her voice was not encouraging; she seemed to have spoken to me out of a sense of duty. I looked humbly at the great jars that stood like eastern guards at either side of the dark entrance to the stall and murmured: "No, thank you."

What effect does the salesgirl's attitude have upon the boy? What was she doing before she talked to the boy? (Does it matter?)

- The central character in this story is a person whose life of the imagination is tremendously strong.

What actually happens in the story, in strictly factual terms? Summarize the bare facts of the story.



WORD AND MEANINGS

James Joyce uses a number of words in the story that convey an exact meaning. Match each of the following words from the story with its right meaning.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. annihilate | a. pleasantness |
| 2. chafed | b. make contact with |
| 3. amiability | c. made fun of |
| 4. imperturbable | d. felt irritation |
| 5. garrulous | e. destroy completely |
| 6. thronged | f. very talkative |
| 7. tedious | g. serenely calm |
| 8. impinge | h. spreads through |
| 9. pervades | i. crowded |
| 10. derided | j. annoying, boring |

1. e
2. d
3. a
4. g
5. f
6. i
7. j
8. b
9. h
10. c

S O L A R F L A R E