

Read the following text, look up all the new words in a dictionary and write them down. Use e. g.

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## IRISH LITERATURE

Irish literature comprises writings in Irish, Latin, and English on the island of Ireland. The earliest recorded Irish writing dates from the seventh century and was produced by monks writing in both Latin and Early Irish. In addition to scriptural writing, the monks of Ireland recorded both poetry and mythological tales. English was introduced to Ireland in the thirteenth century, following the Norman invasion of Ireland. The Irish language, however, remained the dominant language of Irish literature down to the nineteenth century. The latter part of the 19th century, Irish was replaced by English in the greater part of the country.

Jonathan Swift (1667–1745) was an Anglo-Irish essayist, poet and cleric who is remembered for "Gulliver's Travels" (1726), which is a prose satire.

William Butler Yeats (1865–1939) was an Irish Symbolist poet. He was interested in Irish legends, spiritualism, occultism, mysticism. He experimented with automatic writing. He was also a modernist poet. In 1923, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. His poem "The Second Coming" (1919) is a major work of modernist poetry, in which he uses Christian imagery regarding the Apocalypse and Second Coming allegorically to describe the atmosphere of post-war Europe.

Turning and turning in the widening gyre (gyre - víření) The falcon cannot hear the falconer; Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere (dimmed - mdlý, šerý, matný) The ceremony of innocence is drowned; The best lack all conviction, while the worst Are full of passionate intensity. Surely some revelation is at hand; Surely the Second Coming is at hand. The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert A shape with lion body and the head of a man, A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun, Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds. (reel - potáčet se, vrávorat) The darkness drops again; but now I know That twenty centuries of stony sleep Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle, (vex - trápit, soužit, tížit) And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born? (slouch - vláčet se, šourat se)

James Joyce (1882–1941) was an Irish novelist, short story writer, and poet. He is best known for "Ulysses" (1922). He revolutionized the form and structure of the novel. He used the technique called "stream of consciousness" (proud vědomí) (the written equivalent of the character's thought processes; it is usually a loose interior monologue characterized by associative leaps in thought) a short-story collection "Dubliners" (1914) a novel "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" (1916)

Samuel Beckett (/ˈbɛkət/; 1906–1989) was an Irish avant-garde novelist, playwright, theatre director, poet, and literary translator. He wrote in both English and French. His work

offers a tragicomic outlook on human existence, often coupled with black comedy and gallows humor. He was one of the key figures in the "Theatre of the Absurd". Beckett was awarded the 1969 Nobel Prize in Literature. "En attendant Godot" - "Waiting for Godot" (published 1952, performed 1953) It is a play in which two characters, Vladimir (Didi) and Estragon (Gogo), wait for the arrival of someone named Godot, who never arrives.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was an Irish poet and playwright. He became one of the most popular playwrights in London in the early 1890s. Wilde's parents were successful Anglo-Irish intellectuals in Dublin. Their son became fluent in French and German early in life. He studied at a college in Dublin and in Oxford. After university, Wilde moved to London into fashionable cultural and social circles. He lectured in the United States and Canada on the new "English Renaissance in Art" and interior decoration. Then returned to London, where he worked as a journalist. In 1884, he married. He had two sons. In 1888, he wrote a collection of stories for children "The Happy Prince and Other Tales". This was originally written for his sons. It contains five stories: "The Happy Prince", "The Nightingale and the Rose", "The Selfish Giant", "The Devoted Friend", and "The Remarkable Rocket". In 1890, he published his only novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray". The main theme is aestheticism (an intellectual and art movement: "art for art's sake"; art movement focused more on being beautiful rather than having a deeper meaning. Artist Basil Hallward paints a portrait of Dorian Gray. He is impressed by his beauty. Dorian meets Lord Henry Wotton, and becomes excited by his hedonistic world view: that beauty and sensual fulfilment are the only things worth pursuing in life. Dorian knows that his beauty will fade; he wants to sell his soul, to ensure that the picture, rather than he, will age and fade. Dorian stays young and beautiful and his portrait ages and records every sin. (E.g. Dorian goes to an opium den, practices sodomy) He achieved theatrical success with his comedies: "Lady Windermere's Fan" (1892) "A Woman of No Importance" (1893) "An Ideal Husband" (1895) "The Importance of being Earnest" (1895) He was sentenced to two years' hard labour for homosexual offences in 1895. He was declared bankrupt while in prison. He was released in 1897 and went to France. He died in Paris at the age of 46.