Aspects of Irish life – Through Irish eyes

by Liam Cleary

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Competences and skills:

This unit sets out to give students at senior level an opportunity to improve their **knowledge of Ireland, its people and history**. A variety of articles, short stories, poems and audio files have been prepared to help them do this. While working on the material, students will enhance their **reading, writing and listening skills** as they work with the texts. With the worksheets provided, they can also develop their **analysing and writing skills** and have the chance to interact with partners; thus, using their **communicative as well as their social competences**. There are also research tasks and creative writing exercises which offer students the opportunity to perform in front of their classmates.

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Overview:

List of abbreviations:

A Analysis
CT Creative task
LC Listening comprehension
PR Presentation
RC Reading comprehension
W Writing
C Comment
L Working with the language
P Working with a photo
R Research
T Working with a text

Topic	Material	Methods/Skills
1: An introduction to Ireland	M1	P
2: James Joyce: *Eveline*	M2–M4	A, CT, L, PR, R, RC, T
3: John Montague: *The Country Fiddler*	M5–M6	A, L, P, PR, R, RC, T, W
4: Fintan O'Toole: *We Don't Know Ourselves*	M7–M8	A, CT, L, PR, R, RC, T
5: Sports in Ireland	M9–M11	A, L, PR, R, T
6: Podcast: Mary Lou McDonald and Sinn Féin	M12	LC, P, R
Exam: Susan McKay: *On the far side of borders, a new Ireland is taking shape*		A, C, L, RC, T

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Topic 1: An introduction to Ireland

M1 Worksheet – Ireland in pictures

Working with the pictures

1. Compose a title to go underneath the photos.
2. Which of these Irish themes do you know something about or have any experience of?
3. Which of these issues do you most associate with the Republic of Ireland?
4. Describe what a visitor to Ireland would be most attracted to.
5. Prepare a brief fact file which would be useful in a school textbook based on the information you can glean from the pictures.

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Worksheet – James Joyce: *Eveline* M4

Pre-reading activity

1. Research the life and times of James Joyce **or** Nora Barnacle. Find out about Joyce's work and the book *Dubliners* in particular. Why did he write it? In Nora's case, research Bloomsday and her marriage to him. Why were they attracted to each other? Present your findings to your classmates.
   - This will provide you with further information on *Dubliners*: https://raabe.click/dubliners [last access: 28/11/2022]
   - For Nora Barnacle, this is a good place to start: https://raabe.click/NoraBarnacle [last access: 28/11/2022]

Reading comprehension

2. True or false? Correct the false statements.

Statements	True	False
a) The sound of a street organ reminds Eveline of her mother's death.		
b) Before her mother's death, Eveline promised to marry a rich man.		
c) Eveline has written letters to her father and Harry.		
d) Frank does not like to tell her tales of his travels.		
e) Frank wants to marry Eveline.		
f) Eveline and Frank have agreed to leave Ireland from Connolly Train Station.		
g) At the end of the story, Eveline decides to stay in Ireland.		

Language and style

3. Rewrite the underlined parts of this sentence without changing the meaning:
   "Besides, the <u>invariable squabble</u> for money on Saturday nights had begun <u>to weary</u> her <u>unspeakably</u>." (ll. 50/51)
4. Provide antonyms of the following:
   a) to squander
   b) regularly

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Topic 6: Podcast: Mary Lou McDonald and Sinn Féin

Worksheet – Listening comprehension: Mary Lou McDonald M12

A New Leader For Ireland's Sinn Fein, But Will It Be A New Era? (2018)
https://raabe.click/MaryLouMcDonald [last access: 28/11/2022]

Listening comprehension

1. Mark the completion(s) which is/are true:
   Sinn Féin is …
   a) an Irish-language club based in Northern Ireland.
   b) a violent and illegal nationalist army in Ireland.
   c) a party set up to achieve a united, independent Ireland.
   d) a political party in both the North and South of Ireland.
2. True or false? Give a reason.
   a) According to the programme, former president Gerry Adams stayed loyal to the Irish Republican Army and the armed struggle.
   _____
   b) Mary Lou Macdonald is not the typical kind of president Sinn Féin had in the past.
   _____
   c) The violent period in Northern Ireland was called The Unrest.
   _____
3. State in your own words what Sinn Féin's two main political aims are.
   _____
   _____
4. Fill in the missing facts:
   a) Gerry Adams was president of Sinn Féin for _____ years.
   b) Mary Lou McDonald was first elected to the European parliament in the year _____.
   c) The deal which ended violence in Northern Ireland was called _____.

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