

Appendix I

JAMES THURBER'S BIOGRAPHY



Born: 8 December 1894

Died: 2 November 1961 (complications from a stroke)

Birthplace: Columbus, Ohio

Best known as:

Author of *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*

James Thurber's witty short stories and lumpy cartoons were a popular mainstay of *The New Yorker* magazine in the 1930s and 1940s. A Midwestern boy with an urbane twist, Thurber mixed comical reminiscences of his Ohio childhood with wry observations on modern times and the battle of the sexes. (His best-known story is *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, the tale of a henpecked husband who escapes into heroic daydreams.) Thurber's funny, loopy, absurdist cartoons featured men, women, dogs and other strange animals. He was by turns hilarious and melancholy, and his darker nature seemed to come out in stories and cartoons about husbands and wives: the wives often domineering and sarcastic, the husbands harried or bitterly triumphant. Like Mark Twain, Thurber became increasingly morose in his last decade, although he continued to write until his death. His books include the spoof *Is Sex Necessary?* (1929, with E.B. White), the fanciful "autobiography" *My Life and Hard Times* (1933), the *New Yorker* memoir *The Years With Ross* (1959), and the short story collections *The Middle-Aged Man on the Flying Trapeze* (1935) and *The Thurber Carnival* (1933). He also wrote the 1950 children's book *The Thirteen Clocks*. With Elliot Nugent he wrote the play *The Male Animal* (published 1940).

Appendix II

SYNOPSIS OF THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY

The character Walter Mitty from the story the secret life of Walter Mitty is a flat everyday man. In some ways Walter tends to act as a young child by escaping his realistic problems and becoming a fictional character in his daily fantasies. In the story, Walter Mitty is portrayed as a good-hearted man with good intentions but is considered childish in a number of ways. "Once he had tried to take his chains off, outside New Milford, and he got them wound around the axels. A man had had to come out in a wrecking car and unwind them, a young, grinning garage man" (Thurber). As stated, it shows that Walter is too childish to even take chains off of his car, he had to have a man come and help him as if he was five (James Thurber). Yet, another way Walter shows his childish traits through the story is, "The next time, he thought, I'll wear my right arm in a sling; they wont grin at me then. I'll have my right arm in a sling and they'll see I couldn't possibly take the chains off myself." (James Thurber).

Walter Mitty is also viewed as a static character or someone that stays the same without any change occurring throughout the story. In the beginning of the story he is a commander on a ship. " The old man will get us through 'they said to one another.' the old man ain't afraid of hell!" (Thurber). In this quote from the story it shows that Walter is a fearless and confident man. In most of his daydreams he is described as this and throughout the story he stays this way. "Then, with that faint. Fleeting smile playing about his lips, he faced the firing squad; erect and motionless, proud and disdainful, Walter Mitty the undefeated, inscrutable to the last." (Thurber). In both of these quotes, it shows Walter Mitty as a character who doesn't change. He stays as the guy who is in control and almost fearless of anything in his daydream fantasies. In the story, his wife really seems to nag and tell him what to do every breathing second of his life; therefore he uses his imagination to escape the fact that his wife controls every move and decision he makes. While he is dropping his wife off to get her hair done, he has to go run errands and get overshoes because she wants him to. The fact that he is

running around for her shows that she controls everything he does in his everyday life. As he goes to pick her up from getting her hair done he sits and waits for her to be finished with his box of overshoes. " Couldn't you have put them on in the store?... i'm going to take your temperature when I get you home." (Thurber). She is in complete control over Walter Mitty and due to her superiority Mitty is drawn to a fantasyland where he gets away and has control over something in his life for once. He often chooses powerful personalities for the characters that he becomes. He then has power and control over the decisions made and skills performed. The fact that his wife is so controlling over him is the main factor that drives him to his daydreams and fantasylands.

In addition to Walter Mitty, there is Mrs. Mitty, Walter's wife. In the story, she is viewed as a nagging wife who is always on her husband's case. She is looked at as a character who does not change, often called the antagonist that is a flat character. Mrs. Mitty only has one goal and that is to get her husband on a normal level and for him to be able to make his own decisions, but the only way Mrs. Mitty believes that will happen is by Walter proving his common sense and maturity. Her only reason for constantly nagging at Walter is the fact that he refuses to listen to her and chooses his fantasy worlds to escape to, rather than just facing the problem in his reality while he still has the chance.

Mrs. Mitty constantly interrupts at every chance she can, whether Walter is in reality or not. It does not seem to matter what state of mind he is in, she finds a way to control his every move. "Why do you have to hide in this old chair? How did you expect me to find you?." As Walter tries to escape Mrs. Mitty in his fantasies, he also tries to escape her in reality. Her nagging has literally driven him insane and he has nowhere left to go. His daydreams are what motivate Mrs. Mitty to nag constantly at him, because he does not seem normal or to her standards enough. She tries to morph him into something that she wants him to be, when in reality, he just wants to be in control of just one single thing. Obviously, Mrs. Mitty becomes so frustrating and annoying to Walter, that it causes him to put himself in a distant area where it would be difficult for her to find him at.

The main conflict that is displayed in this story is man versus man, or in Walter Mitty's case it is man versus woman. Walter goes through a series of

events where his wife is constantly nagging at him to get something done, and he is never given enough time to make the decision himself. Therefore he is put in a situation where his fantasy world is the only place he can turn to where he is an independent individual who is in control for once. Another conflict that is presented in the story that is minor would have to be man versus himself. Walter Mitty uses his imagination to get away from the fact that he is a coward because he lets someone live his life for him. His wife makes all the decisions for him and he is pretty much a prisoner held captive in his body in reality, but in his fantasies he is looked at as a hero and someone that he thrives to be like in his reality. The only thing that keeps him from losing his sanity in reality are his daily daydreams that get him from day to day.

Appendix III

JAMES JOYCE'S BIOGRAPHY



Born: 2 February 1882

Died: 13 January 1941 (perforated ulcer)

Birthplace: Rathgar (near Dublin), Ireland

Best known as: Author of *Ulysses* and *Finnegan's Wake*

Name at birth: James Augustine Aloysius Joyce

Joyce was to modern literature what Picasso was to modern art: he scrambled up the old formulas and set the table for the 20th century. Joyce's books *Ulysses* (1921) and *Finnegan's Wake* (1939) ignored traditional plot and sentence structure in favor of sprawling, witty, complex mixtures of wordplay, streams of consciousness, and snatches of sights and aromas woven in with the rambling reveries of the characters. Joyce grew up in Dublin, set all his major stories there, and is intricately associated with the city; *Ulysses* tells the story of one day in the life of Leopold Bloom as he travels the city's streets. (Bloom's wanderings are compared to those of mythical hero Ulysses -- hence the book's title.) *Finnegan's Wake* went even further with dreamy wordplay and inventive genius, but also cemented Joyce's reputation as a challenging, even difficult author to read. Joyce moved from Dublin in 1904 with his girlfriend Nora Barnacle; they had a son (Giorgio) in 1905 and a daughter (Lucia) in 1907, but were not married until 1931. They lived in Paris from 1920 until World War II forced a move to Zurich, where Joyce died in 1941. His other works include *The Dubliners* (1914) and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916).

Appendix IV

SYNOPSIS OF EVELINE

In the short story "Eveline," James Joyce gives Eveline an exciting chance to leave her old life and begin a new one. But she rejects this offer by choosing between Frank and Fate, she preferred instead to settle back into the lousy life she had known all her life. Eveline had been raised as a Catholic, and it was very difficult for her not to keep a promise of her dead mother. It wasn't right of her mother to ask her daughter to sacrifice herself. We know that Eveline will always be haunted by that promise, but we didn't expect her to give up her life for this. We certainly know that Eveline wanted to leave her abusive, bad-tempered, heavy drunken father. Her father was taken advantage of his daughter's promise, and that promise forcing her to keep the house for her father. He had so frightened her with threats of beating her. Eveline realized that with her brothers gone, there is no one who can protect her from her father. To leave her father would be a great idea for her, but that promise killing her.

Eveline's home life was so unhealthy, despite all the chores she performed in her house; she still didn't feel comfortable there. The dustiness of the house, which Joyce always reminds us in the story, told us that the dust made her sufficed all the time and made her sick and tire of this town and her life. Eventhough she had many reasons to leave her town, she still preferred to stay with her lousy father. The main reason why Eveline didn't leave Ireland, because she was afraid of unknown and taking risks which she wasn't prepared to deal with that in her future. She chose to leave her wonderful man Frank who can give everything she desires. But instead she chose to stay in this horrible town with her

father and with her promise, which she made to her mother. By staying in this town it will always remind her of what kind of mistake she made by not choosing to leave with Frank.

Eveline was afraid of failing on her own. She was scared that she might explore another life with a great person like Frank who was willing to give her his life. Eveline was telling herself that living with her father might not be so bad or risky than unknown life with Frank. Eveline was so frightened that she might not succeed in her future life, which overrides her fear of her father. One thing that she didn't understand was that her life will always be abusive and she will always be afraid of her father. But she made her decision by not leaving a last person of her family member.