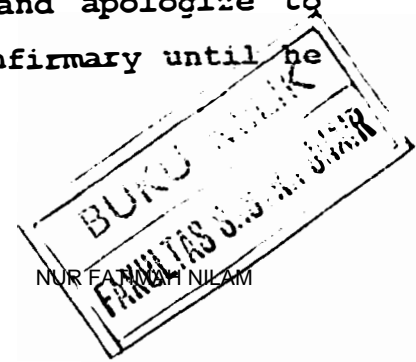


## SYNOPSIS

Stephen is still a small child at the beginning of the novel. He was forced by his mother and his aunt to apologize after he plays with Eileen a Protestant girl, otherwise the 'eagle will pull out his eyes'. Chapter one in the most part describes Stephen's childhood in Clongowes wood College. In this school Stephen begins to know his uniqueness among his immediate environments. He finds that his name Dedalus sounds queer to his schoolmate Nasty Roche. He is not good in football nor sum which most his friends are. He likes to think of things particularly beautiful ones. He has shown his sensitivity toward auditory impression and language. He plays football in the evening but his mind is focused on the sentences that he has read in a spelling book. Then when he joins a sums game he thinks of beautiful colors instead. In playing time after class in which Stephen feels uncomfortable, he was confused by his friend's question whether he kisses his mother or not before going to bed. While holding on with his strong wish to go home, he tries to think of his position in the universe by writing his name and his bigger environments, as well as God's name. He also thinks of whether he will be like persons who are good in poetry and rhetoric for he admires them. He thinks of Christmas holiday at home and prays for himself and his family before going to bed. When he wakes up in the morning he doesn't feel well. His schoolmate who shouldered him to the ditch was afraid and apologize to him. Stephen is then taken care in the infirmary until he



is recovered. Finally Christmas holiday comes and he goes home.

Regretfully, his expectation of peaceful and cheerful Christmas disappears as his father Simon Dedalus, Mr. Casey and his aunt Dante Riordan have a 'mad' argument over politics.

When he gets back to school he must deal again with his friends' earthy interest. In the conversation with his friends, he is always in peripheral position since he cannot understand their conversation fully. Some of their words are mysterious to him. Meanwhile the image of Eileen fills his mind. His liking of thinking of things helps him find the connection between the Blessed Virgin and Tower of Ivory. Later on he is concerned with the fact that his teachers who are priest do not always practice what they preach. He received a sadistic pandybat from father Dolan unfairly. He is accused of being lazy because he does not write the assignment. And yet Stephen cannot do it because he broke his glasses by accident. However, with all his courage and support from his friends, he tells the rector about the unfair treatment. The rector's positive response relieves him.

Stephen spends his summer holiday with uncle Charles in Blackrock. He does not come back to Clongowes as the holiday is finished. Despite the unpleasant condition of his surroundings which is caused by his family's declining fortune, he listens to the longings of his heart more intently. His mind begins to be preoccupied with the beautiful figure of Mercedes as he comes to his sexual awakening as a teenage. Simultaneously, Stephen is claimed by his family to take charge of some family duty. But

Stephen is more concentrated to his 'inner world'. Stephen is then sent to Belvedere College by his father to continue his study. In this school, Stephen is more serious in his interest: literature and art. He wins prizes in essay competitions. In Belvedere he must deal again with stupidity rudeness of his schoolmates. He is beaten for admiring Lord Byron proudly. He is aware that he is in profound conflict with his realistic environment. He tries to make a lively relationship by buying presents for his family. But when his wealth ends, he returns to his 'inner world'. On a trip to Cork with his father he is told about his father's past and demanded to become a good man. Stephen does not listen to all these things. He dislikes his father when he is told that Simon Dedalus used to be a great flirt. In a chance of visiting his father's school Queen's College, Stephen is struck by the word 'foetus' carved on a desk because it is connected to what he has been looking for. The effect of this strike is getting intense as Stephen comes across an obscene graffiti at the urinal which shows him the 'dark peace'. His longing is fulfilled in his encounter with a whore in whose arms he falls.

It turns out that sinful intercourse with the whore results in Stephen's deep guilty feeling. After he listens to a long sermon which intensifies his guilty feeling, he decides to confess his sin.

The days after the confession are filled with piety and virtuous activities. However, as Stephen becomes a model student for his schoolfellows and when his teacher offers him to become a priest, he returns to his awareness of a way of life. that he really wants. He does not want

to become a priest because he realizes he cannot keep himself pure, free from sin. At last he decides to refuse the priestly office and enter a university. In his walk to the sea, at the sight of a wading girl, he finds that his life is to be free from religious and social order, like a bird and like Daedalus, a Greek artificer in Greek legend whose name he bears.

Next, as Stephen is confirmed enough with his life-project, he finds what he has been looking for in Thomas Aquinas' aesthetic concept. He tests his ideas in discussions with the dean of the studies and his friends at University College of Dublin. At last he decides that in order to achieve his ideals in art and his autonomy as an artist, he will not served his country, church, family, and friends which in his thought, does not favor an individual's achievement. He finally leaves them all.