

# LITERARY DUBLIN

## ■ 6 The Twentieth Century – Part I

### Before watching

- 1 Look through Volume II of *Visions and Perspectives* and find out how many writers were born in Ireland. Write their names below. Only one was not born in Dublin, who?**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

- 2 Do you remember when Southern Ireland gained independence from the United Kingdom? If not, re-read page 128 Volume II of *Visions and Perspectives*, 'The Irish Question.'**

Write the date here:.....

- 3 Video vocabulary. Match each expression in A with its correct definition in B.**

#### A

1. spawned
2. heritage
3. languishing
4. gaze
5. sentinel
6. bustling
7. infamous
8. plethora
9. famine
10. outlook
11. link
12. staidness

#### B

- ☐ a) acute hunger
- ☐ b) connection
- ☐ c) famous for negative reasons
- ☐ d) moving quickly, busily
- ☐ e) view
- ☐ f) generated/produced
- ☐ g) conventionality
- ☐ h) excess
- ☐ i) tradition
- ☐ j) to look intently at something
- ☐ k) guarding
- ☐ l) lying lazily

### While watching

- 4 Fill in the gaps in the following extract.**

The city of Dublin has produced some of the most ..... (1) writers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Everywhere in the city there are reminders of Dublin's ..... (2) past. We can find street names, bridges, memorials and

..... (3) to commemorate these great writers. Bewley's Café' is Dublin's ..... (iv) café' and was frequented by some of the city's most important writers. .... (5) in particular would often go there. His novel ..... (6) was set in Dublin and focuses on the strong feeling of ..... (7) which seemed to dominate the city. Many famous writers, in fact, felt they had to ..... (8) the city in order to become successful, although they all maintained a ..... (9) to their city and country. Perhaps because of a troubled history all Irish writing is ..... (10) to a certain degree.

- 5 Choose the correct answer for the following questions.**

1. What is the name of Dublin's river?  
☐ a) the Severn  
☐ b) the Liffey  
☐ c) the Trent
2. Which play by Samuel Beckett did the lady interviewed recently see?  
☐ a) *Waiting for Godot*  
☐ b) *End Game*  
☐ c) *Happy Days*
3. How many Irish writers have won the Nobel Prize for Literature?  
☐ a) 4  
☐ b) 7  
☐ c) 2
4. Whose statue is lying on a rock below a tree?  
☐ a) W. B. Yeats  
☐ b) Seamus Heaney  
☐ c) Oscar Wilde
5. How old is Bewley's Café?  
☐ a) 53 years  
☐ b) 86 years  
☐ c) 100 years
6. Which language did Samuel Beckett originally use for *Waiting for Godot*?  
☐ a) Spanish  
☐ b) Italian  
☐ c) French

- 6 Underline the correct option.**

1. In 1840 Ireland suffered a terrible *war* / *famine*.
2. In the past Dublin was a city of extreme *poverty* / *wealth*.
3. Samuel Beckett was greatly influenced by *James Joyce* / *George Bernard Shaw*.

4. James Joyce lived for many years in *France / Italy*.
5. Irish writers wrote in English but instilled the language with a kind of *Irishness / latin effect*.

- 7 The speaker says that Irish writers were:**  
 ‘...reaffirming their national identity through the language of the oppressor.’  
**Who do you think was the ‘oppressor’?**

### After watching

- 8 Is there a city in Italy which has produced many famous writers? Discuss.**
- 9 In groups of 4 do some Internet research and organise a ‘Literary Weekend Tour’ (3 days) in Dublin. Where would you go? What would you do? Compare your tour with the other groups in your class.**