

## **Molly's Soliloquy Analysis**

In Molly Bloom's soliloquy, Molly's sleepy monologue switches from topic to topic, introducing fragments of her thoughts without warning, as they occur in real life. What is particularly notable about this extract is that there is no discernable form or structure. More specifically, the flow of the narrative conveys true emotional processes as they occur, as opposed to the afterthoughts of the conventional typical narrative form, which Joyce interrogates in this soliloquy. This suggests the recognition from the author that humans do not experience emotions discretely but in continuous flux as stimuli change. This also conveys a reason for freeing the particular character's thoughts through an unconventional and formless method:

"...so we are all flowers a womans body yes that was the one true thing he said in his life and the sun shines for you today yes that was why I liked him because I saw he understood how or felt what a woman is and I knew I could always get round him and I gave him all the pleasure I could leading him on till he asked me to say yes and I wouldnt answer first only looked out over the sea and the sky I was thinking of so many things he didnt know of..."

In any form of writing, grammatically correct punctuation creates emphasis on certain elements, and the pauses that they encourage break the flow of the narrative. However, the absence of punctuation in this particular passage suggests that Joyce was aware of the fact that the human mind perhaps does not always function linearly. When one thinks, their thoughts are often random, shifting with changing stimuli therefore becoming free of punctuation. The absence of punctuation in this passage refers to Joyce's intentions to challenge and encourage one to abandon conventional modes of reading, in order to decipher the unrestrained words flowing from Molly's stream of consciousness. Throughout the soliloquy, Molly's mind ponders on the prospect of several phases of human experience—sexual desire, emotional vulnerability, and "psychological empowerment"<sup>1</sup>. In terms of the language in this passage, Joyce often utilises imagery related to nature, to symbolize the interior of Molly's mind and how she wants to establish a correspondence or relationship between her and Mother Nature. For example, throughout the passage the words, "flowers", "sun", "sea" and "sky" are all mentioned. The utilisation of these words is significant because it alludes to the mood and state of mind that the particular persona is in, on a connotative level. At the same time, on a denotative level, employing these words within the character's soliloquy simply depicts the setting of the event that she is referring to whilst reminiscing. Joyce explores the concept of nature further when Molly speaks in the tones of a Gaia figure, her opinions consisting of dense natural metaphor, and illustrating her strong mindedness. This develops characterization and gives the reader a clear sense of the personality of the persona.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ksuemail.kennesaw.edu/~mglosup/ulysses/penelope.htm>