

MODERNISM and STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

*What is **Modernism**?*

Modernism is a literary and artistic movement that originates in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

As a literary movement, however, Modernism is typically associated with the period after the Great War.

It is characterized by a self-conscious break with traditional ways of writing: influenced by the theories developed by Sigmund Freud, modernist writers try to find new ways, new techniques, to express the complexity of human mind.

When James Joyce and Virginia Woolf use the “**stream of consciousness**” technique in their novels **the traditional narrator disappears**, and the reader knows the **flow**

of thoughts (it's a real "flow": there's no punctuation!), the association of ideas, occurring in the character's mind. Through an **interior monologue**, the character's thoughts and feelings are explored.

Joyce's novel "Ulysses" (1922) closes with one of the most famous examples of stream of consciousness technique: the twenty-page inner monologue by Molly Bloom.