**2 Short Story Review**

**A Personal information**

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**B Answer the following questions in English:**

***The writer***

1 a The writer of this short story James Joyce

b James Joyce was an Irish novelist, short story writer, poet, teacher, and literary critic. He contributed to the [modernist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modernism" \o "Modernism)[avant-garde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avant-garde) and is regarded as one of the most influential and important authors of the 20th century. Joyce is best known for [*Ulysses*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulysses_(novel)) (1922), a landmark work in which the episodes of [Homer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homer)'s [*Odyssey*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odyssey) are paralleled in a variety of literary styles, most famously [stream of consciousness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stream_of_consciousness_(narrative_mode)). Other well-known works are the short-story collection [*Dubliners*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubliners) (1914), and the novels [*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Portrait_of_the_Artist_as_a_Young_Man)(1916) and [*Finnegans Wake*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnegans_Wake) (1939).

c wikipedia.org

***The short story***

2 a The title of the short story is: ‘The dead’

b I believe that the title fits the story.

c The title, "The Dead," symbolizes the inner death, the spiritual paralysis of the people from the story, they are very limited in their imaginings. All people from the story are hardly showing any emotions or imaginings, that is why I think the title fits the story.

d If I had to rename the short story, I would call it ‘The caretaker’s daughter’. Not because she is the main character of the story -she is not-, but because it is an element of the story that is not the most significant, but it comes back several times in the story. The story also begins with: LILY, the caretaker's daughter, was literally run off her feet.

3 a The story was published in the begin of the 20th century. To be more specific, it was published in the year 1914.

b I think the time is significant for the time when it was written, because of several things. For example; the way the story was written. Very formal and/or old language was used in the story. The way the people behave in the story is also significant for the time it was written in. For example, the aunts have a caretaker and an annual dance is taking place in the story. Those things suit the year the story was written in.

c I did not use any (online) sources.

4 a The genre as you would find it in for example a library, is: a short story. But other genres can be: romance and realistic fiction.

b I have chosen realistic fiction as one of the genres, because the story is realistic enough to think that it really happened. I have chosen romance as one of the genres, because the story is some couples who are married, and also about new couples, which are put together in the story.

The writer of the story wrote: "Two gentlemen and three ladies, Mary Jane!" "O, here's Mr. Bergin and Mr. Kerrigan," said Mary Jane. "Mr. Kerrigan, will you take Miss Power? Miss Furlong, may I get you a partner, Mr. Bergin. O, that'll just do now."  
"Three ladies, Mary Jane," said Aunt Kate. The two young gentlemen asked the ladies if they might have the pleasure, and Mary Jane turned to Miss Daly. "O, Miss Daly, you're really awfully good, after playing for the last two dances, but really we're so short of ladies tonight."

c I did not use any (online) sources, apart from the pdf which contained the short story.

5 a The story is about two aunts who throw an annual dance. They invite friends and family to the party, and they have thrown the dance for more than 30 times. One of the people aunt Kate and aunt Julia invited to the party, is their nephew, Gabriel, who is the main character of the party. As the night follows, Gabriel goes upstairs and joins the rest of the party attendees. Gabriel worries about the speech he has to give, especially because it contains academic references that he fears his audience will not understand. When Freddy Malins arrives drunk, as the hosts of the party had feared, Aunt Kate asks Gabriel to make sure he is all right.

b I do not think the writer tries to send a message with this story. I think this is just a story about two aunts who throw a party with several people, and the things that happen at the party. So there are not any important messages or an important moral in the story.

c I think the story’s main theme is relation.

d The story’s other theme love.

e I think relation is the main theme of the story, because the story is all about the realations between the guest of the party, Lily, aunt Kate and aunt Julia. And I think love is a theme of this story, because one of the key focuses of the story is the love between the members of the family.

f I did not use any (online) sources.

6 a The story takes place at aunt Kate and aunt Julia’s house. The story takes place on a night somewhere around Christmas time.

b I know where the story takes place because of this sentence: Miss Kate and Miss Julia had thought of that and had converted the bathroom upstairs into a ladies' dressing-room. The bathroom is theirs, so I know it is their house. I know it is evening because it was 10 o’clock in the evening when Gabriel arrived in the story. And I know the party takes place around Christmas because the party is called the annual Christmas dance. The story takes place at only one night, which is the night of the party,

7 a The narrator’s name is not told in the story. The story has a third person narrator, because the narrator knows everything that happened that night. The narrator is like a commentator, and those are the features of a third person narrator.

b The story does not give details about who the narrator is.

8 a -Gabriel: Innocent, Kind, Responsible -Lily: Innocent, Shy, Dead -Aunt Kate: Old, Dead, Welcoming

b/c I do not think there are any heroes or anti-heroes in the story, because there is not a problem that the anti-hero has caused, and so there is not a problem for the hero to solve.

9 a The story is told in chronological order and there are no plot twist. There are very few metaphors used in the story, and there is hardly any humour in the story, so this story is pretty dead. That makes it a bit boring too.

b I did not use any (online) sources.

***C Your own opinion***

10 a I do not have an opinion about this story, I do not like it, but I also do not hate it. In my opinion this was a pretty long story for a short story. I would rather call this story a novella, because it consist of more than 50 pages. I found it hard to memorise the characters and the relations between them, because there are a lot of characters in this story. In the overall I liked the story, because it was -despite of the lack of humour- a bit entertaining after all, although it did take me three days to read it. I think I found it a bit entertaining because I like stories from the time this story has been written in.

11 Would you like to change anything about the story, for instance its ending, its characters or certain events? Mention your reasons for wanting or not wanting to change anything. If I had to change something about this story I would definitely shorten the story, because I found it way too long. I would also delete some of the characters, because I think there were too much of them. And if the story contains less characters, you would interest more in one person, that makes the story more interesting obviously.