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# A Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Man (Naxos AudioBooks)



## Synopsis

This fictionalised portrait of Joyce's youth is one of the most vivid accounts of the growth from childhood to adulthood. Dublin at the turn of the century provides the backdrop as Stephen Dedalus moves from town and society, towards the irrevocable decision to leave. It was the decision made by Joyce himself which resulted in the mature novels of *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*. Read unabridged by the incomparable Joyce expert, Jim Norton.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Joyce's depiction of the early Dublin life of Stephen Dedalus towers over modern literature, providing a stylistic blueprint and creative touchstone for artists young and old" *Guardian* "It's damn well written" -- Ezra Pound "There is nothing more vivid or beautiful in all Joyce's writing. It has the searing clarity of truth...but is rich with myth and symbol" *Sunday Times* "James Joyce is my favourite novelist...Once I had read [this] I knew that I could never create anything that even came close to Joyce's magic" --James Patterson *Sunday Express* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Designed for school districts, educators, and students seeking to maximize performance on standardized tests, Webster's paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce was edited for students who are actively building their vocabularies in anticipation of taking PSAT®.

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The greatest writer of Fiction in English, period. Precedes "Ulysses", his and our greatest Novel, but it is simpler and more accessible, but not less profound. My recommendation to the newcomer to J. Joyce is to start with "Dubliners", his first book. It is a small collection of short stories about Dublin in and around 1900. Each is brilliant, meticulously local to time and place, and at the same time, universal. The final story, "The Dead," will stun you, move you. You may never forget.

I liked it with reservations. Definitely a masterful work as most people agree (and with good reason), but like most of Joyce's work, very much effort is required in the reading. Obviously we in this age have gotten lax in our reading abilities and in involved, descriptive writing, but I can't help but think that even back when the book first came out, there were people struggling with it. By the end though, I was very glad I read it.

I have not read the book but I wanted to add that the book is abnormally large for a small novel of only 5 chapters, I didn't check the dimensions before I purchased the prime eligible paperback copy (so cheap!) but then when it came I was surprised to find out that it was like the size of an elementary school student's spelling workbook. It's like 8 1/2 x 11 pages bound together. I'm afraid it will make for an awkward or uncomfortable read when I do pick it up. Check the dimensions before you buy.

I am a handful of hours into this work. I just wanted to make a suggestion to those considering reading this work in regards to all the comments on how difficult it is to read. I don't find it difficult at all. It just takes a little patience to get into the style and rhythm. The content of the 'story' is certainly

not difficult, the language is clear and easy to grasp. The experiences of the main character are easy to grasp. The early trajectory of the story and the perspective of the young Steven is easy to grasp and become engaged in. Just my perspective of course and I have not read the entire novel. But I don't think all the talk about how difficult a read it is should discourage anyone from reading and enjoying this work. It just is not all that much of a task to read it. Rather, it is very enjoyable to read.

It's Joyce! I'm not even sure why it needs to be rated. I've been studying his writing for over forty years. He still fascinates, amazes, and confounds me with his knowledge of language, history, religion, and myth. I grabbed this version of *Portrait* to keep on my Kindle. There are days when reading a few pages rather than staying abreast of the news or reading a new "best seller" can make life bearable once more. Joyce is never a quick read. He does not provide a thoughtless thrill or a peek at a vapid one dimensional characters with a hint of wanton pleasures. If you lean toward a quick "Tweet" or empty FB post you might not be enthralled by Joyce. If you wonder "Who am I?" more often than "What Fast Food Takeout Lane should I get dinner at?" then read Joyce.

The prequel to James Joyce's *Ulysses* introduces the reader to Stephen Dedalus, through Joyce stream of consciousness technique. We get to know young Stephen from his first thoughts and words as he matures to a tortured college/high school boy, wracked with guilt over his loss of innocence. Written at the turn of the 19th Century, it predicts the turn to self-consciousness that haunts Freudian psychoanalysis and prefaces the self-centeredness of the Boomer generation. It makes a strong case against turning back to simpler times of following the Church's dictums. The illustrations seem to be randomly gathered from period paintings of 1900 Dublin. They are not insightful.

There are those books that all the critics love, and this is one of them. It read like a slow seeping of madness into my conscience, so even though it had been required for my university class, I decided to call it quits on this one.

This book is unreadable. The words are often run together and separating them is difficult and causes the flow to be disruptedS

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