

Irish-American Literature Project

Dr Geoff Parker:

Minimum 10 pages with appropriate appendix: One work only can be dropped.

1. Oscar Wilde: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891). In the context of beauty: aestheticism, art for art's sake, dandyism, the Hellenic idea, the Pre-Raphaelite movement and the Yellow Book of the nineties.

2. Bram Stoker: *Dracula* (1897). This unusual story with respect to gender norms, stereotyping and shifting roles, e.g. the new Woman in the late nineteenth century, includes the presence of Count Dracula and his vampirellas. The tragic figure of Lucy in contrast to Mina Harker and the emblematic desires of the key figures ultimately drown in seduction and bloodlust.

3. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby* (1925). Scott Fitzgerald and the American Dream: if by the American Dream we mean the Roaring Twenties leading up to the depression, ultimately one might say that the American Dream in the Jazz Age of jelly beans, flappers and speak-easies fails to achieve the American Dream due in part to Gatsby's own corrupt selfishness.

4. Elizabeth Bowen: *The Heat of the Day* (1948). This major work of female literature provides settings in London and Ireland during the interwar years before the outbreak of total war. She is trailed, however, by two men, one of whom is a Nazi. It is truly Bowen's masterpiece.

5. Hugo Hamilton: *The Speckled People* (2003) Imgard Kaiser, a refugee fleeing from Nazi Germany in the thirties, but wishing to leave, arrives in Ireland. In the next years she will grow up with her six children in the context of Southern Ireland. The family is half-German, half-German, leading to a new form of homelessness. The father insists on Irish at home with Imgard trapped between two cultures.

6. John Banville: *The Sea* (2005)

This work truly captures the imagination due to three different aspects: the concept of the deep past of years ago, the interim period and the present. The male protagonist returns to the deep past after the death of his wife in an attempt to rediscover his own childhood and the Gods of yesteryear.

7. Colm Tobin: *Brooklyn* (2009) Brooklyn: A small-town in the Ireland of the 1950's. The protagonist goes to America for a new life, but suddenly she must return after the death of Rose, her sister. Her predicament is this: should she remain in America, or return to another in Ireland?

Your Name + Matric. Nr: Literature

Abgabetermin ist der 15.11.2017.