wanted to tell it cinematographically since 1950s. The film was released in 1987, just before Huston died at the age of 81. His son Tony wrote the screenplay and his daughter Angelica starred Gretta. Look at the final part of the movie here, which is really very faithful to the text: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6FGlwaAqxA&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6FGlwaAqxA&feature=related). What meaning can you give to the falling snow?

**A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man** is Joyce’s second publication. The indefinite article at the beginning of the title is meaningful: Joyce wants to tell one among the infinite interpretations of the development of a personality. The novel is composed of five chapters, it is autobiographical and contains Joyce’s points of view about politics and religion: reading this book, we can follow the writer’s evolution from when he accepts the authority around him to when he rebels and, consequently, chooses exile. The passage below shows the protagonist Stephen Dedalus, Joyce’s alter-ego, expressing his position to Davin, a friend of his, about the Irish question:

-This race and this country and this life produced me, he said. I shall express myself as I am.
-Try to be one of us, repeated Davin. In your heart you are an Irishman but your pride is too powerful.
-My ancestors threw off their language and took another, Stephen said. They allowed a handful of foreigners to subject them. Do you fancy I am going to pay in my own life and person debts they made? What for?
-For our freedom, said Davin.
-No honourable and sincere man, said Stephen, has given up to you his life and his youth and his affections from the days of Tone to those of Parnell, but you sold him to the enemy or failed him in need or reviled him and left him for another. And you invite me to be one of you. I’d see you damned first.
-They died for their ideals, Stevie, said Davin. Our day will come yet, believe me.

Stephen, following his own thought, was silent for an instant.
-The soul is born, he said vaguely, first in those moments I told you of. It has a slow and dark birth, more mysterious than the birth of the body. When the soul of a man is born in this country there are nets flung at it to hold it back from flight. You talk to me of nationality, language, religion. I shall try to fly by those nets.

Davin knocked the ashes from his pipe.
-Too deep for me, Stevie, he said. But a man’s country come first. Ireland first, Stevie. You can be a poet or mystic after.
-Do you know what Ireland is? asked Stephen with cold violence. Ireland is the old sow that eats her farrow.

Whose side are you on: Stephen’s or Davin’s?
For Joyce every word has a rigorous meaning: for example, the protagonist of *A Portrait*, Stephen, is so called after St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr who had conflicts with the established religion of his time. It’s an element in common with Joyce’s Stephen: «I will not serve that in which I no longer believe, whether it call itself my home, my fatherland, or my church: and I will try to express myself in some mode of life or art as freely as I can and as wholly as I can, using for my defence the only arms I allow myself to use – silence, exile, and cunning.», said Stephen in *A Portrait*. Do you know why Stephen was called Dedalus? Do a websearch in no more than 15 minutes and tell the class.

The novel which revolutionized XX-century Literature, *Ulysses*, was published in Paris in 1922 by the Shakespeare and Company publishing house of the American Sylvia Beach. It was banned in the United Kingdom and America, after that some passages of *Ulysses* began appearing on some American magazines in 1918 and arising scandal. Only in 1933 a District Judge ruled that the book was not pornographic and therefore could not be considered obscene. And in fact it isn’t. Let’s read how Joyce himself explained his work in a letter to Carlo Linati, an Italian writer, dated 21 September 1920:

«It is an epic of two races (Israelite-Irish) and at the same time the cycle of the human body as well as a little story of a day (life). The character of ‘Ulysses’ always fascinated me – even when a boy. Imagine, 15 years ago I started writing it as a short story for ‘Dubliners’! For 7 years I have been working at this book – blast it! it is also a sort of encyclopedia. My intention is to transpose the myth sub specie temporis nostri. Each adventure (that is, every hour, every organ, every art being interconnected and interrelated in the structural scheme of the whole) should not only condition but even create its own technique. Each adventure is so to say one person although it is composed of persons – as Aquinas relates of the angelic hosts. No English printer wanted to print a word of it. In America the review was suppressed four times. Now, as I hear, a great movement is being prepared against the publication, initiated by puritans, English Imperialists, Irish Republicans, Catholics – what an alliance! Gosh I ought to be given the Nobel Prize for peace.»

What do you expect from a novel so described?

What does the sentence «My intention is to transpose the myth sub specie temporis nostri» mean?

So, *Ulysses* is «a little story of a day» told in 18 episodes. The day chosen by Joyce to set his novel is 16 June 1904, when he met Nora Barnacle for the first time. Two of the main characters - Stephen Dedalus, who, like in *A Portrait*, represents Joyce around 20 years of age, and Leopold Bloom, who’s a forty-year-old Joyce - wander in Dublin; the