



Location: The Rosenbach of the Free Library of Philadelphia  
2008-2010 Delancey Place  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Time: 2–4 p.m., second Sunday of the month (for dates, see flip side)

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## TEXTS

### Required

James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*. Fortunately, all editions have the same pagination; I recommend the Penguin Classics version edited by John Bishop, ISBN 978-0141181264.

### Recommended annotations

Roland McHugh, *Annotations to Finnegans Wake*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Johns Hopkins University Press, ISBN 978-0801883828. Not interesting reading on its own but contains corresponding-page glosses on an enormous number of the *Wake*'s allusions, non-English-language inclusions, puns, and portmanteau words.

### Two other recommended books

William York Tindall, *A Reader's Guide to Finnegans Wake*, Syracuse University Press, ISBN 978-0815603856. A very readable chapter-by-chapter summary of what seems to be happening in the book, with a sprinkling of more detailed glosses. I've found it helpful to read Tindall's summary of a chapter before reading or listening to it myself.

John Bishop, *Joyce's Book of the Dark: Finnegans Wake*, University of Wisconsin Press, ISBN 978-0299108243. John Bishop practically memorized Joyce's book while he was working on this monumental study of its ruminations on sleep, dreams, language, and the body. This remains one of the best books written about the *Wake*. Not for the faint of heart, though; this thing is the length and size of an encyclopedia volume!

## GOALS & APPROACHES

Once Joyce had finished *Ulysses*, he embarked on "Work in Progress," the project that would occupy him for the remaining seventeen years of his writing life. Finally titled *Finnegans Wake* when it was published in 1939, the book has since been recognized as the most challenging, inventive, playful, polyglot book of the twentieth century. It's like nothing else you've ever read, a gorgeous and alien "collideorscape" of punning coinages drawn from many languages. The *Wake* also marries micro with macro. It's the story of a single night but also a "meanderthalltale" of all human history—the story of the Earwickers, a family of Dublin pub keepers, but also of all of us.

The best way to encounter it is with a group of others willing to enter the dream logic of Joyce's epic of the night. Although I'll assign a chapter or chapters for each of our meetings, we won't try to "cover" the reading exhaustively in our discussions. Instead, we'll focus on a handful of designated sections (see the "Focus on" page ranges, below) from which we'll discuss even shorter passages, making our way through them slowly, closely, and immersively together. I'll select some of these passages and lead our discussions of them. Others will be selected by participants, each of whom will sign up ahead of time to gloss and facilitate our discussion of a passage. The goal of the course will be to introduce the book's main figures, narrative threads, preoccupations, and techniques to participants; to explore new ways and reasons to read and interpret; and to leave us all more confident in venturing into the deeper waters of this and other extreme works of literature.

Date	Wake section & supplementary reading	Focus on	FW pp.
10/08	Book I.i (pp. 3-29)† [The Wake; The Giant's Howe] Book I.ii (pp. 30-47)† [The Ballad] +Atherton "The Structural Books," from <i>The Books at the Wake</i> (1959)*	p. 3, 21-23 ("Prankquean")	26 17
11/12	Book I.vii (pp. 169-195) [Shem] + Attridge, "Unpacking the Portmanteau" (1988)*	pp. 169-71, 182-86	34
12/10	Book I.iii (pp. 48-74) [Earwicker's Story] Book I.viii (pp. 196-215) [Anna Livia Plurabelle]	pp. 196-201, 209-16	26 19
01/14	Book I.iv (pp. 75-103) [Interment and Trial] Book I.v (pp. 104-125) [The Mamafesta]	pp. 110-13 ("Hen"), 119-23	28 21
02/11	Book I.vi (pp. 126-168) [Questions & Answers]	pp. 139-43, 152-59 ("Mookse & Gripes")	42
03/11	Book II.i (pp. 219-259) [The Mime of Mick, Nick, & the Maggies]	pp. 226-27, 257-59	40
04/08	Book II.ii (pp. 260-308) [Night Lessons]	pp. 293-300	48
05/13	Book II.iv (pp. 383-399) [Mamalujo; Tristan and Iseult] Book III.i (pp. 403-428) [First Watch of Shaun] +Deppman, "A Chapter in Composition: Chapter II.4," from <i>How Joyce Wrote Finnegans Wake</i> (2007)*	pp. 383-86, 393-97	16 26
06/10	Book IV (pp. 593-628) [Ricorso]	pp. 619-end	35
<b>Key:</b>	"+" = recommended supplementary reading "†" = first session readings: please come to the meeting having done this reading in advance "*" = I will send via email as a pdf attachment		

1929 recording of Joyce reading from the *Wake's* "Anna Livia Plurabelle" chapter (I.viii)

[https://ubusound.memoryoftheworld.org/joyce\\_james/Joyce-James\\_Anna-Livia-Plurabelle.mp3](https://ubusound.memoryoftheworld.org/joyce_james/Joyce-James_Anna-Livia-Plurabelle.mp3)

