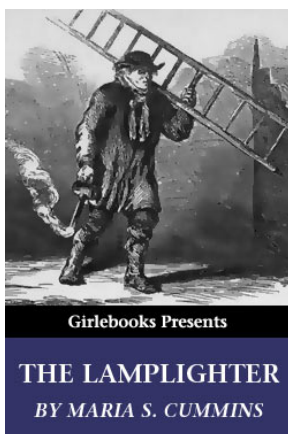


Chapter 13: Nausicaa

The action: We're on the beach--Sandymount Strand, the same place that Stephen was walking through in "Proteus." Three young women, Cissy Caffrey, Edy Boardman, and Gerty MacDowell, and Cissy's nephews (twin 4-year olds Jackie and Tommy) and a toddler are making a outing. You'll notice right away a strange style, a parody of romantic writing that casts everything in a smooth, purply, shallow kind of prose unequal to the revelations of Gerty's emotional life (such as domestic abuse). At the same time, a benediction ceremony is going in the church, Mary Star of the Sea, just off the beach, and they can hear the prayers and chimes. Gerty (grand-daughter of the owner of Garryowen, the dog in "Cyclops") is our heroine in the first half of the chapter. The drama consists of her dreams of romance, somewhat answered by a mysterious man watching the little group from the rocks along the seawall. I won't say more than that.



***The Lamplighter* by Maria Cummins**

This mid-century novel crops up in Gerty's mind, and most think the style is based on the kind of romantic discourse in the novel. In reality that novel is written in a more sophisticated style--"Nausicaa" is probably closer to the magazines that are mentioned in the episode. But the Pollyannaish attitude of the narrator does correspond to Cummins' novel.

Joyce a feminist?

What do you think about Gerty? This is one of the more controversial chapters in the text (in fact, it's the chapter that got *Ulysses* banned in the U. S.), and even today critics are sharply divided into at least three camps, all dependant upon their view of Gerty.