Paralysis as main motif in *Dubliners* and "The Dead."

Failure of traditions like marriage and the breakdowns of communication and faith are all prevalent in the story.

Epiphany—central word in Joyce's vocabulary.

The opening scene: The Aunts' traditional celebration and the introduction of the story's protagonist, Gabriel.

Breakdown in communication apparent from the outset in the scene with the servant, Lily.

Other key scenes: Gabriel's discussion with Miss Ivors, scene between Gretta and Gabriel after the party is over.

- And why do you go to France or Belgium, said Miss Ivors, instead of visiting your own land?
  
  Well, said Gabriel, it's partly to keep in touch with the languages and partly for a change.

- And haven't you your own language to keep in touch with—Irish? asked Miss Ivors.
"The Dead"

- Tension in the scene between Gabriel and Miss Ivors when she accuses him of being a "West Briton."
- Continual miscommunication intensifies Gabriel's isolation and self-consciousness.
- Scene with Gretta underscores this isolation. Even those who should be most intimately linked, like a husband and wife, are not.
- Gretta retreats into her own isolated world with the memory of Michael Fury.

He had never felt like that himself towards any woman, but he knew that such a feeling must be love. The tears gathered more thickly in his eyes and in his partial darkness he imagined he saw the form of a young man standing under a dripping tree. Other forms were near. His soul had approached the region where dwell the vast hosts of the dead... His own identity was fading out into a grey impalpable world: the solid world itself, which these dead had one time reared and lived in, was dissolving and dwindling.


"The Dead"

- Gabriel left alone and with the opportunity to experience an epiphany.
- His view out the window, emphasizing snow and cold.