

Test your knowledge of Irish literature

- 1. Which Irish Nobel Laureate poet wrote the words: “I have spread my dreams under your feet; Tread softly because you tread on my dreams”?**
 - A. Seamus Heaney
 - B. Oscar Wilde
 - C. W B Yeats
 - D. Patrick Kavanagh
- 2. Jonathan Swift’s giant in Gulliver’s Travels was inspired by a view from which city?**
 - A. Belfast
 - B. Dublin
 - C. Cork
 - D. Kilkenny
- 3. The famous vampire-themed novel Dracula was written by Bram Stoker in 1897. Where did Stoker come from?**
 - A. Derry – Londonderry
 - B. Dublin
 - C. Salem
 - D. Transylvania
- 4. Four Irish writers have won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Who are they?**
 - A. Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett, and Seamus Heaney
 - B. W.B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, and Seamus Heaney
 - C. W.B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Iris Murdoch, Colm Tóibín
 - D. Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Irish Murdoch, and Edna O’Brien
- 5. James Joyce is perhaps most well-known for his novel *Ulysses*, a modernist interpretation of Homer’s *Odyssey*. Joyce also wrote all of the following except...**
 - A. Dubliners
 - B. Finnegans Wake
 - C. The Fugitive
 - D. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
- 6. In 1987, this Irish novelist, whose work includes *The Sea*, *The Sea* and *The Bell*, was named a Dame by Queen Elizabeth II for her services to literature...**
 - A. Maeve Binchy
 - B. Kate O’Brien
 - C. Iris Murdoch
 - D. Edna O’Brien
- 7. The famed playwright Samuel Beckett wrote in English and another language – which he also taught at Trinity College as a lecturer for a short time. The language was...**
 - A. Irish
 - B. French
 - C. German
 - D. Italian

- 8. If we talk to you about an Irish author known for his dark humour and existential themes, author of the play 'Waiting for Godot', who comes to mind?**
- A. Martin McDonagh
 - B. Brendan Behan
 - C. Jonathan Swift
 - D. Samuel Beckett
- 9. Which Irish poet won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995? Among his most famous poetry collections are 'Death of a Naturalist' and 'The Spirit Level'.**
- A. W.B. Yeats
 - B. Seamus Heaney
 - C. Patrick Kavanagh
 - D. Eamon Grennan
- 10. Which Irish author and playwright wrote 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' and is today remembered as one of the key figures of decadentism?**
- A. Oscar Wilde
 - B. George Bernard Shaw
 - C. Samuel Beckett
 - D. J.M. Synge
- 11. Which Irish writer, often associated with the Celtic Revival, co-founded the Abbey Theatre and wrote works such as 'The Playboy of the Western World'?**
- A. Oscar Wilde
 - B. George Bernard Shaw
 - C. Samuel Beckett
 - D. J.M. Synge
- 12. Which of the following plays caused a near-riot at the Abbey Theatre when, among other blasphemies, the word "shift" (as in a woman's undergarment) was uttered on stage?**
- A. John Millington Synge's The Playboy of the Western World
 - B. Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot
 - C. Oscar Wilde's Salome
 - D. Sean O'Casey's Shadow of a Gunman
- 13. What was the name of Ireland's greatest epic hero—the Irish Achilles?**
- A. Cuchulain
 - B. Darby O'Gill
 - C. Finnegan
 - D. Taoiseach
- 14. Which of the following literary figures was also an Irish Senator?**
- A. James Joyce
 - B. Samuel Beckett
 - C. Sean O'Casey
 - D. W.B. Yeats

15. When did Oscar Wilde publish The Ballad of Reading Gaol?

- A. 1878
- B. 1888
- C. 1898
- D. 1908