# The 'Stream of Consciousness' on the Page

The 'stream of consciousness' was rendered by Modernist writers using two different narrative techniques: **direct interior monologue** or **indirect interior monologue**, which differ from each other because they use a different kind of narrator. Here are samples of both techniques:

**DIRECT INTERIOR MONOLOGUE**
**James Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922)**

Gibraltar as a girl where I was a Flower of the mountain yes when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls used or shall I wear a red yes and how he kissed me under the Moorish wall and I thought well as well him as another and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again yes and then he asked me would I yes to say yes my mountain flower and first I put my arms around him yes and drew him down to me so he could feel my breasts all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will Yes.

**INDIRECT INTERIOR MONOLOGUE**
**Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* (1925)**

Mrs Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself. For Lucy had her work cut out for her. The doors would be taken off their hinges; Rumpelmayer's men were coming. And then, thought Clarissa Dalloway, what a morning – fresh as if issued to children on a beach. What a lark! What a plunge! For so it had always seemed to her, when, with a little squeak of the hinges, which she could hear now, she had burst open the French windows and plunged at Bourton into the open air...

Direct interior monologue presents the thoughts of a character in a direct, uncontrolled and non-filtered way. Thoughts are expressed using the 1st-person point of view and punctuation is abolished because it represents a way to control and organise the characters' thoughts. The result is a rather shocking and apparently unorthodox way of representing the workings of the mind of a character.

Indirect interior monologue, on the contrary, shows the workings of the mind of a character using a 3rd-person omniscient narrator, who controls the character's flux of thoughts and uses grammar rules and punctuation to organise them in a logical way. The narrator uses verbs like 'he/she thought' to introduce the characters' thoughts.