

Felicia's Journey
(1994)

William Trevor

October 27, 2018
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
McClelland Library
Norton Room

1928 - 2106

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Guide:

- The title of this book invites us to focus on journeys in space and time. How well has Trevor communicated Felicia's state of mind as she begins her voyage? Very near the close of the novel, Felicia's "purposeless journey" is mentioned. What changes have occurred in her life? Consider Trevor's use of flashback to flesh out Felicia's earlier life.
- How would you characterize Joseph Hilditch? *An Irish Echo* review of the novel (in 1995) contains the following statement about this character: "While making it clear that Hilditch is more dangerous than he pretends to Felicia, Trevor skillfully avoids demonizing him." Suggest some of the strategies used to communicate that sense of danger as well as those used to avoid "demonizing."
- Seamus Deane (*A Short History of Irish Literature*, 1986) says that "Irish novelists are concerned with social or political dislocation, a product of the country's history" (226). How has Trevor communicated a complex and troubled society in *Felicia's Journey*. To what extent does this novel speak to the troubled history of the Irish? In this connection, consider what might be called Felicia's "night journey" (Trevor 100ff – chapter 12).
- Finally, you might want to see the novel itself as your journey as reader. How well did you manage the twists and turns in the plot, the limited information, and the characters you encountered? What praises would you have for Trevor's storytelling? What criticisms?

Looking Ahead: Flann O'Brien, *At Swim Two Birds*, on December 1, 2018