Beneath Speech

—She lay very still, looking up at the undersides of words.

Pink was pink all the way through, like any organ might be, placed from the body and held quiet on a little tray—

Night was a starry dish. One side convex, one side concave.

This must be like winter for fish, she thought, and all the nouns went nameless as ice and slightly opaque.

If she put out her tongue, she might stay there forever.

In the air, the smell of snow like bits of speech—may I have a little wind?, she wondered, because or so to cover me—

Mary Ann Samyn

MEMORY AND THE DARK DREAM OF IRISH HISTORY

Seán Farrell Moran

In James Joyce's novel Ulysses the main character, Stephen Daedalus, protests that "History is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake." To those who love Ireland such sentiments seem harsh. For most people the common notion of Irish history is of a uniquely dream-like and mythical world, peculiar to the place and its past, recoverable in some way in the present. For Joyce and many other Irish intellectuals, such notions are part of the nighmarish past from which Ireland and the Irish need to escape. Deep within the past are memories, affinities, and desires that determine events and grant them their significance. In the Irish m estaht that the past is never completely erased. Like a palimpsest on which the past has been written, erased, rewritten, erased once more, and so on, over and over, Irish history has left its traces in memory, legible vestiges which survive no matter how often they seem to be erased. It is these traces which reiterate Irish history and in the process control the past and the present.

In the Easter Rising of 1916, widely recognized as the most important moment in modern Irish political history, the Irish educator, poet, and playwright Patrick Pearse led over a thousand Irish republicanism insurgents to take over areas of downtown Dublin. In theory they hoped to set off a spark of revolution throughout Ireland, but Pearse, as well as his other commanders, knew this would not happen. His real accom-