Secondly, Joyce uses a lot of images and figures of speech, which donate certain meanings related to the characters. For example, on describing Gabriel in "The Dead", "... idealizing his own clownish lusts", this describes his state of desire while sleeping beside his wife, which is later on blown by Gretta's admission of her love for Michael Furey. In addition, D'Arcy describes Mary Jane's singing as "hoarse as a crow". Gabriel, also describes the sentimental moments of his life with his wife on seeing her tears on listening to the "Lass of Aughrim", that all her duties "had not quenched all their soul's tender fire". This shows his illusion because he is imprisoned in his own egoism illuminated in the moment of epiphany at the end of the story.

In addition, within "A painful case", Mrs. Sinico is described as a "a warm soil" to show how she is interested in emotional and sexual aspects. On describing how Duffy is isolated and alienated from society, he is described as "an outcast from life's feast".

Moreover, in "counter parts", Mr. Alleyn Farrington's partner is described as "a polished skull", "large e'ir", and a "manikin", which shows that he is a ridiculous and one dimensional character. To show how Farrington is interested in wine, Joyce uses significant images, his face is as "wine colored", or like "dark meat".

Thirdly, one of the most important stylistic features of Joyce's style is the use of psychological analysis. He uses omniscient narration, still, he analyses his characters in a way that show their moral, feelings of moral paralysis and alienation beside, the characters' wish to escape. For example, Joyce describes the psychological state of Duffy as he hates any kind of physical or mental disorder. Duffy in "A painful case" regards his own acts with "doubtful" side glances, the word "doubtful" conveys how he is alienated within his own egoism. Mrs. Emily Sinico's husband, after her death, and during the inquest, describes her as "rather intemperate" conveys her loneliness and frustration. The words "to buy spirits" said by her daughter in the inquest conveys Mrs. Sinico's psychological case, which drove her to drink and her death – whether accident or suicide – remains mysterious.