

This thesis deals with one aspect of the literary work of the American writer John Irving, that is the frequent absence of nuclear family in his novels and its consequences. Irving's heroes grow up very often without either one or both parents and this thesis analyses how the deprivation has influenced them in their lives, especially in their adulthood. The beginning of the thesis presents at first theoretically the consequences of the absence of nuclear family in a human life and its basis is in psychological literature, then it introduces John Irving and his work. The core of the thesis is the analysis of the selected novels where the theme is the most prominent.