

The approach and use of Bildungsroman in the context of Irish contemporary literature is subject to lively development and invention on the behalf of the writers, thus offering an interesting and wide field of study for the literary criticism. This study of four representative works serves only as an introduction into the subject and does not, by far, cover the whole area. Nevertheless, Patrick McCabe's *The Butcher Boy*, Roddy Doyle's *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, Seamus Deane's *Reading in the Dark* and Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* manage to cover and demonstrate the variety and richness of this genre in Irish literature. Each of the writers tackles the subject with distinctive innovation, each picking a different theme as the centre of their respective novels.