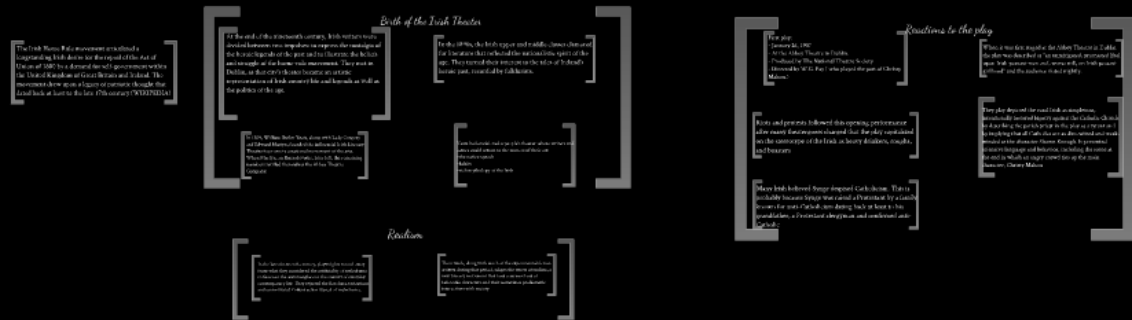
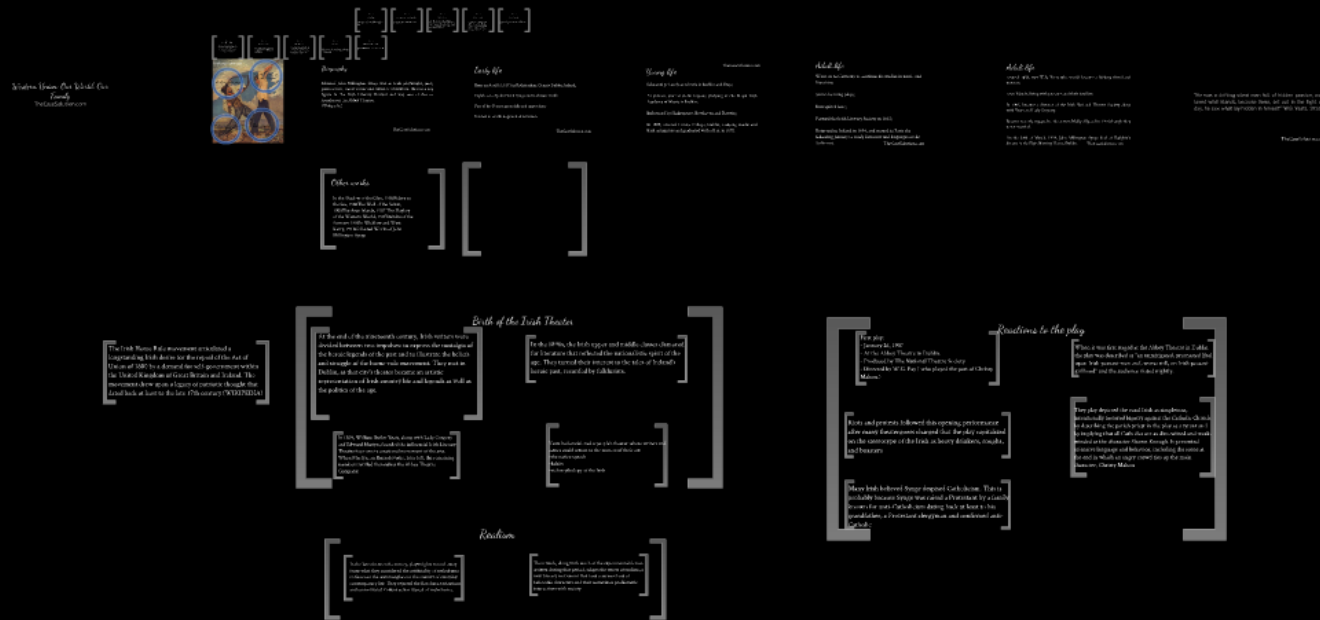


On the west coast of County Mayo<sup>[2]</sup> Christy Mahon stumbles into Flaherty's tavern. There he claims that he is on the run because he killed his own father by driving a toy into his head. Flaherty praises Christy for his boldness, and Flaherty's daughter (and the barmaid), Pegeen, falls in love with Christy, to the dismay of her betrothed, Shawn. Because of the novelty of Christy's exploits and the skill with which he tells his own story, he becomes something of a town hero. Many other women also become attracted to him, including the Widow Quinn, who tries unsuccessfully to seduce Christy at Shawn's behest. Christy also impresses the village women by his victory in a donkey race, using the slowest beast. Eventually Christy's father, Mahon, who was only wounded, tracks him to the tavern. When the townsfolk realize that Christy's father is alive, everyone (including Pegeen) shuns him as a liar and a coward. In order to regain Pegeen's love and the respect of the town, Christy attacks his father a second time. This time it seems that Old Mahon really is dead, but instead of praising Christy, the townspeople, led by Pegeen, bind and prepare to hang him to avoid being implicated as accessories to his crime. Christy's life is saved when his father, beaten and bloodied, crawls back onto the scene, having improbably survived his son's second attack. As Christy and his father leave to wander the world, Shawn suggests he and Pegeen get married soon, but she spurns him. Pegeen laments betraying and losing Christy: "I've lost the only playboy of the western world."



*Western Union: Our World, Our  
Family*

TheCaseSolution.com

*Analysis of the play*

*John Millington Synge  
in Irish Literature*

*The characters  
and the play*

*Seminar*

# *Biography*

Edmund John Millington Synge was an Irish playwright, poet, prose writer, travel writer and collector of folklore. He was a key figure in the Irish Literary Revival and was one of the co founders of the Abbey Theatre.

(Wikipedia)

## *Early life*

Born on April 16, 1871 in Rathfarnham, County Dublin, Ireland;

Eighth son of John Hatch Synge and Kathleen Traill;

Part of the Protestant middle and upper class;

Interest in ornithology and observation.

## *Young life*

Educated privately at schools in Dublin and Bray;

At sixteen, started violin lessons studying at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin;

Influenced by Shakespeare, Beethoven and Darwin;

In 1888, entered Trinity College, Dublin, studying Gaelic and Irish antiquities and graduated with a B.A. in 1892.

# *Adult life*

Went on to Germany to continue his studies in music and literature;

Started writing plays;

Unrequited love;

Formed the Irish Literary Society in 1892;

Returned to Ireland in 1894, and moved to Paris the following January to study literature and languages at the Sorbonne.

## *Adult life*

Around 1896, met W.B. Yeats who would become a lifelong friend and mentor;

Aran Islands, living with peasants and their families;

In 1905, became a director of the Irish National Theatre Society along with Yeats and Lady Gregory.

Became secretly engaged to the actress Molly Allgood in 1906 though they never married.

On the 24th of March, 1909, John Millington Synge died of Hodgkin's disease in the Elpis Nursing Home, Dublin. [TheCaseSolution.com](http://TheCaseSolution.com)



"He was a drifting silent man full of hidden passion, and loved wild islands, because there, set out in the light of day, he saw what lay hidden in himself." W.B. Yeats, 1910