

Mrs. Dalloway

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ENGL056B
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Authorship

Early Life

- Born Adeline Virginia Stephen in London, 1882
- Raised in a family with mother, father, and 7 siblings
- No formal education
- Mental illness



Virginia Woolf

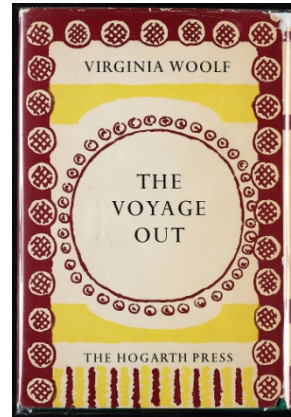
Adulthood

- The Bloomsbury Group
- Married Leonard Woolf in 1912
- Founded Hogarth Press in 1917
- Affair with Vita Sackville-West

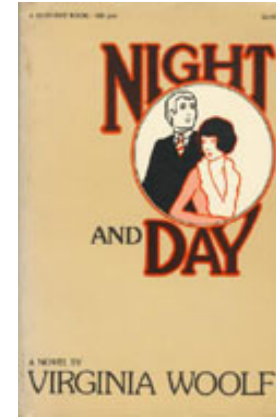


Body of Work

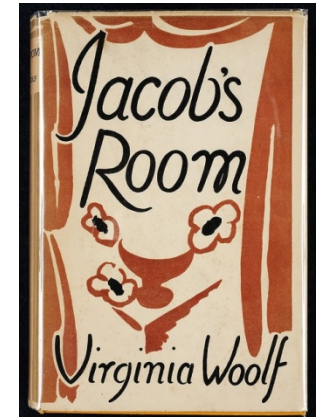
- Already an accomplished and respected writer when *Mrs. Dalloway* was published
- An accomplished essayist (over 500 essays) and critic
- Pioneer of Modernism
- Incorporates key elements of Modernism:
 - Mundane subject matter
 - Pessimism or questioning
 - disjointed/overlapping characters
- Seen as a feminist



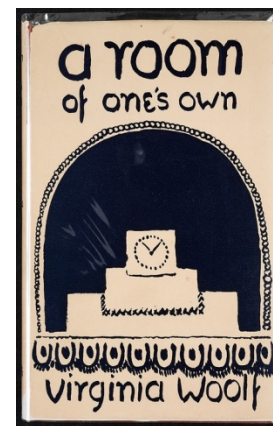
(1915)



(1919)



(1922)



(1929)



(1938)

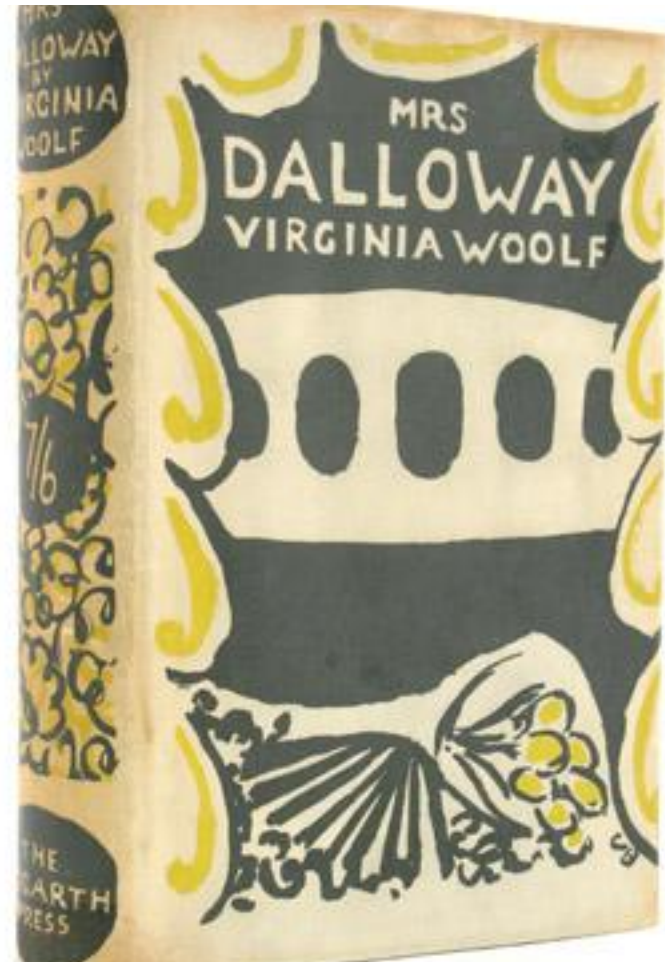
Death

- Committed suicide on April 18th, 1941 by drowning in the River Ouse

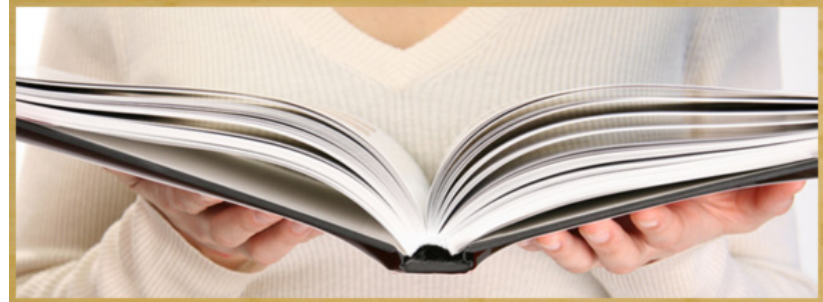


Publication

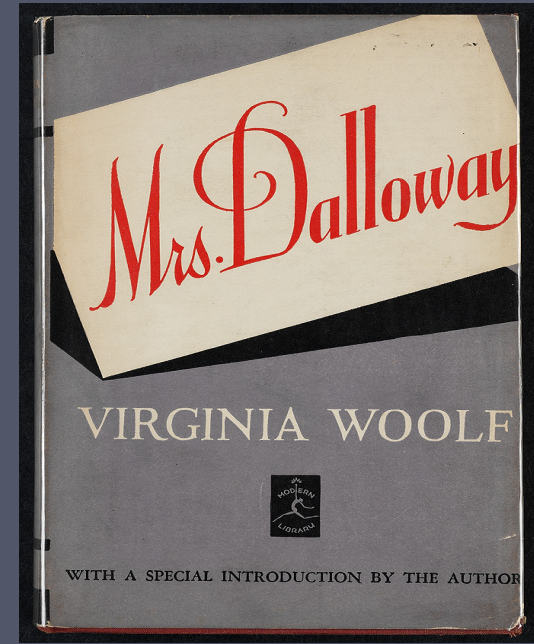
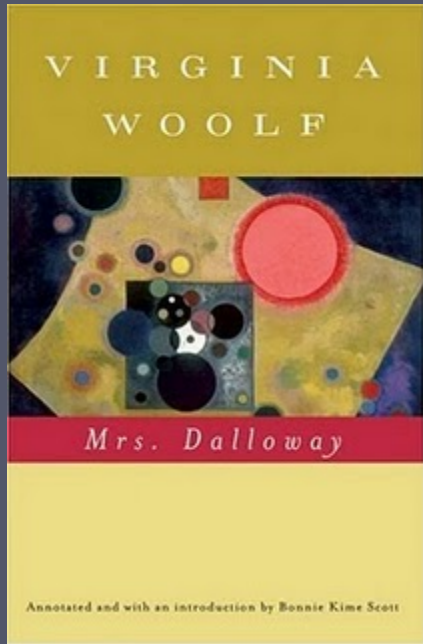
- The short story “Mrs. Dalloway in Bond Street” published in 1923
- Combined with unpublished story “The Prime Minister” to create the novel, *Mrs. Dalloway*
- Published in 1925 by Hogarth Press
- Cover art by sister, Vanessa Bell
- First edition for sale at abebooks.com for \$23,052.69



Reception



- **Events in Mrs. Dalloway were relatable to readers**
- **Brought an entirely new writing style to critics**
- **Woolf was ambivalent to critics**
- **Surprised by Mrs. Dalloway's success**



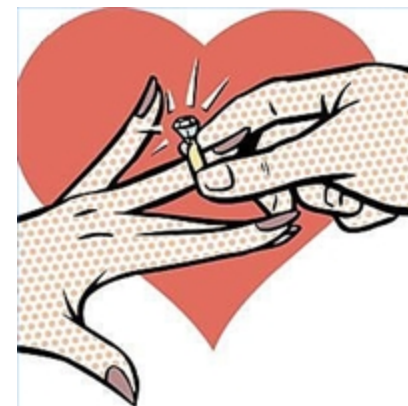
Characterizations

(just the important ones)



Clarissa Dalloway (Mrs. Dalloway)

- **Main character of the novel**
- **Somehow linked to several other characters in the novel**
- **Symbolization of society**
- **Symbolization of the institution of marriage**



Septimus Warren Smith

- **Symbolizes destruction of war**
- **Symbolizes mental instability**
- **Schizophrenia**
- **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**
- **Lingering Between Two Worlds**



Peter Walsh



- ❖ **Symbolization of Love**
- ❖ **Unlike other men in society**
- ❖ **Has a strange habit due to nervousness**
- ❖ **Modern day bi-polarity**

“Books, letters, dressing-gown, slipped about on the impersonality of the horse-chair like incongruous impertinences. And it was Clarissa’s letter that made him see this” (151).

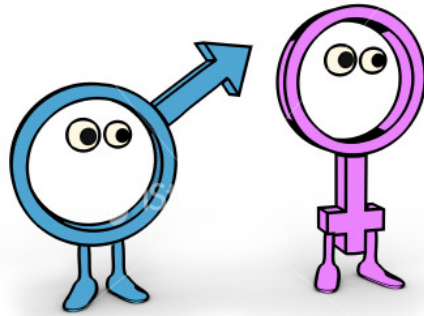
Sexuality

vs.

Religion

Sally Seton

Doris Kilman



- **Symbol of sexuality**
- **Not in society's "norm"**
- **Free will and free spirit**

- **Symbol of religion**
- **Does not like Mrs. Dalloway at all**
- **Very fond of Elizabeth**



Structure

WTF, WOOLF!?

Does anyone remember this...?

“And every-where, though it was still so early, there was a beating, a stirring of galloping ponies, tapping of cricket bats; Lords, Ascot, Ranelagh and all the rest of it; wrapped in the soft mesh of the grey-blue morning air, which as the day wore on, would unwind them, and set down on their lawns and pitches the bounding ponies whose forefeet just struck the ground and up they sprung, the whirling young men, and laughing girls in their transparent muslins who, even now, after dancing all night, were taking their absurd woolly dogs for a run; and even now, at this hours, discreet old dowagers were shooting out in their motor cars on errands of mystery; and the shopkeepers were fidgeting in their windows with their paste and diamonds, their lovely old sea-green brooches in eighteenth-century settings to tempt Americans (but one must economise, not buy things rashly for Elizabeth), and she, too, loving it as she did with an absurd and faithful passion, being part of it, since her people were courtiers once in the time of the Georges, she, too, was going that very night to kindle and illuminate; to give her party. [5]

...practically half a page...

...one sentence....

Structure

- Omniscient narrator
- Intersection of time and timelessness
- Stream of consciousness?
- Interior monologue



Stream of consciousness?

- In the *Principles of Psychology*, William James wrote: “Consciousness... does not appear to itself chopped up in bits... a “river” or “stream” are the metaphors by which it is most naturally described.
- Literary method of the blending of mental processes usually in an unpunctuated and disjointed form of...interior monologue.
- <http://webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/jamesselection.html>

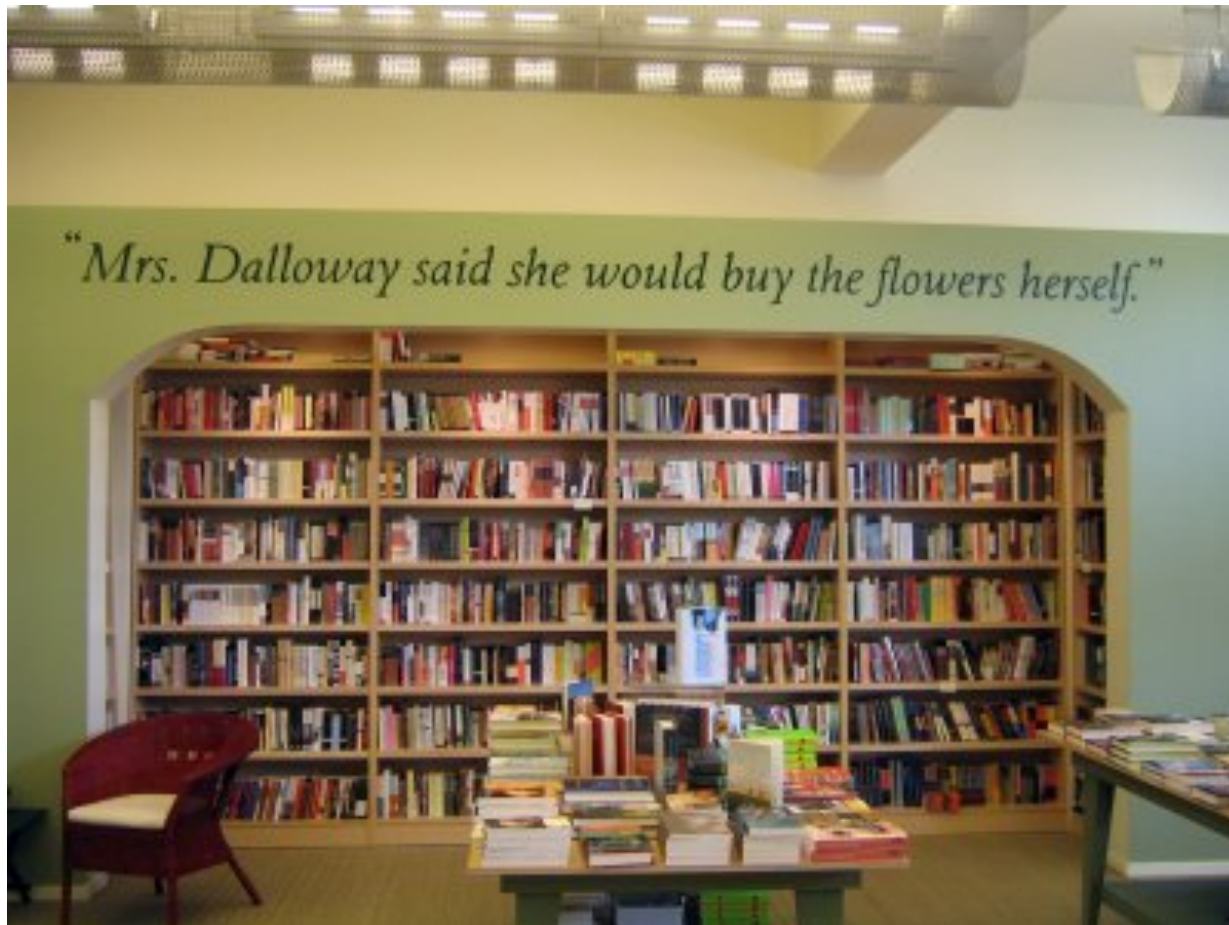


Interior monologue

- A narrative technique in which action and external events are conveyed indirectly through a fictional character's mental soliloquy of thoughts and associations.
- Chronicling interior thoughts without pause or explanation

References to Mrs. Dalloway.....

Mrs. Dalloway's in Berkeley, California





**THANK YOU
FOR LISTENING!**