
Mrs. Dalloway

by Virginia Woolf

ENGL 56B Presentation

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The Author



- Virginia Woolf was born January 25, 1882 in Kensington, London to Leslie & Julia Stephen.
- Famous for her Feminist & Modernist fiction & nonfiction writing

Youth and Family Life

- Woolf grew up in a big family: Two half sisters, two half brothers; two brothers and one sister.
- Her father was a writer. Her home had a large library.
- Woolf wrote articles at a young age for her family pretend “newspaper” *The Hyde Park Gate News*.

Author: Virginia Woolf

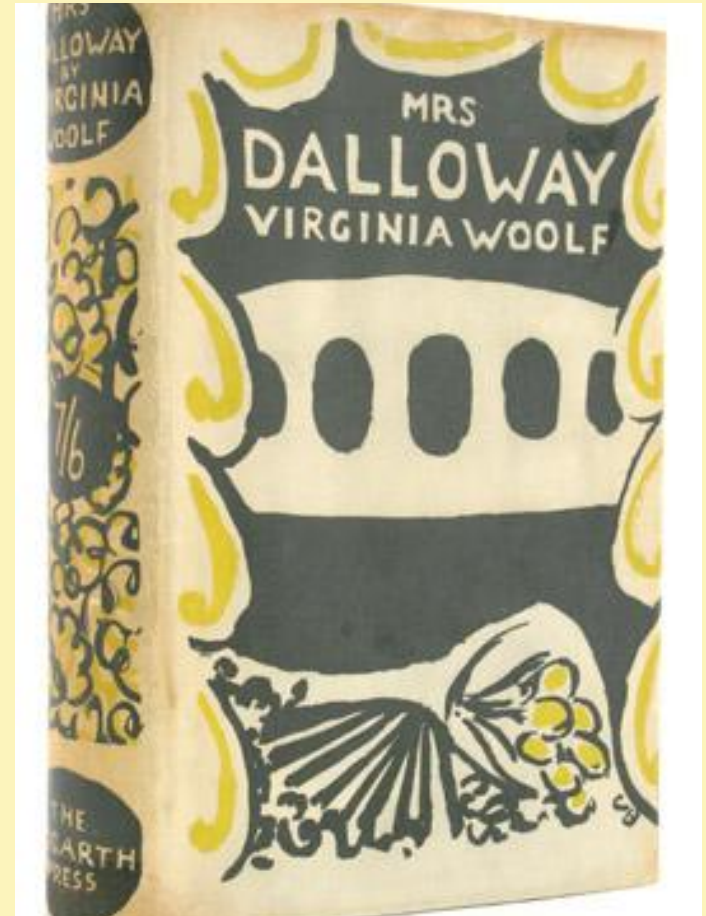
- English author, essayist, publisher, and writer of short stories, regarded as one of the foremost modernist literary figures of the twentieth century.
- Suffered from sexual & emotional abuse by her half brothers.
- She married a writer, at the age of 30.
- Mental disorders, suicide attempts

Author of:

- A major stylistic innovator associated with the stream-of-consciousness technique
- 9 novels during 1915-1941
- Three biographies from 1928-1940
- Seven non fiction books and seven others were printed after her death.
- One drama

Reception: Public Response

- *Mrs. Dalloway* second novel
- Movies “Mrs. Dalloway” and “The Hours”
- Published May 14, 1925 by Hogarth Press
- 1000 copies sold in two weeks



Clarissa Dalloway

- The heroine of the novel
 - Struggles to balance her internal life with external world
 - She loves buying flowers
 - Marries Richard Dalloway, instead of Peter Walsh
 - Appreciates the beauty of life
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Septimus Warren Smith

- Main character
 - Veteran of World War I
 - Victim of shell-shock
 - He lives in an internal world
 - Similarities & differences to Clarissa
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Peter Walsh

- Love for Clarissa
 - Conflicting feelings (very emotional)
 - Lonely, insecure
 - Considers himself a failure
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Sally Seton

- Close friend to Clarissa
- Free spirit, questioning social conventions
- Symbol of sexuality

Richard Dalloway

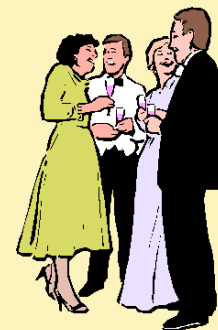
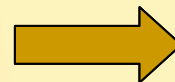
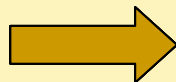
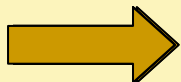
- Clarissa's husband
 - Simple, hardworking politician
 - Provides a stable life for his family
 - Connections to English high society
 - Cannot express his emotions
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The Plot

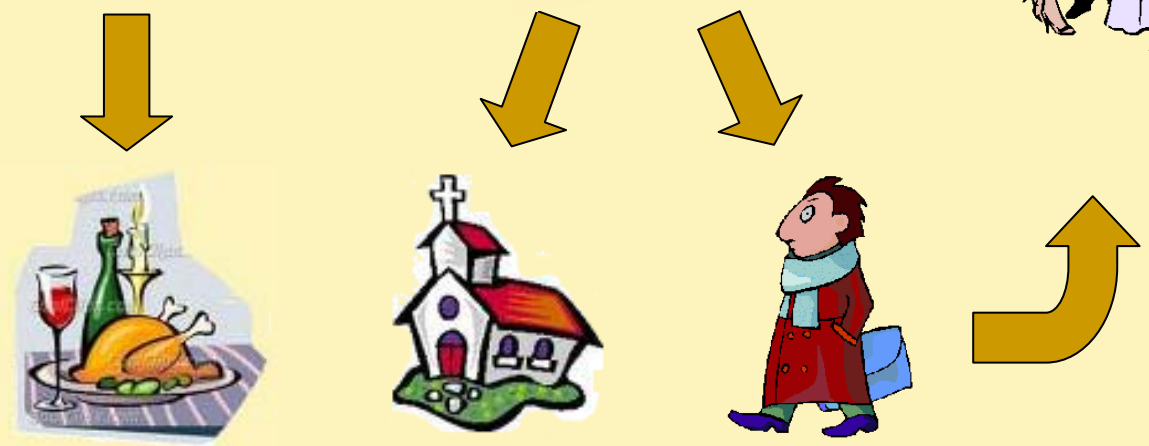
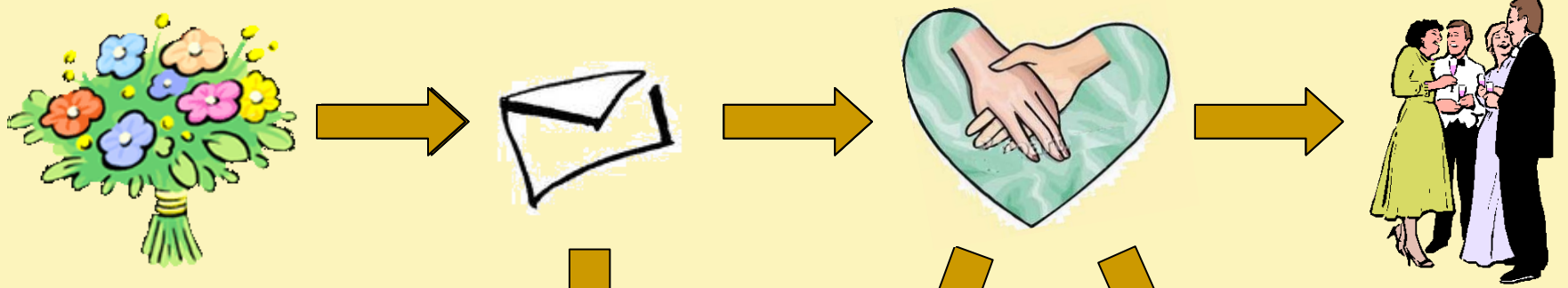
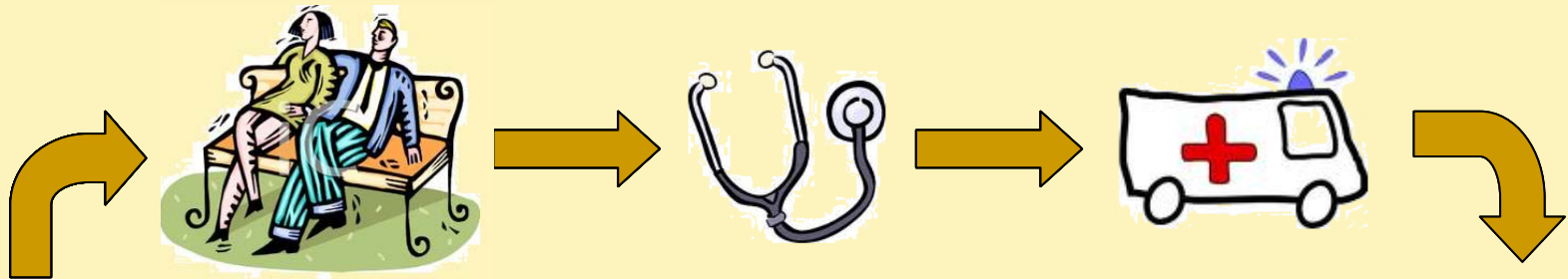
- Is there one??
- Overall thread is Mrs. Dalloway's day in London before her party
- Parallel stories: a day in life of Septimus Smith, minor plots with characters in Mrs. Dalloways life



The Plot



The Plot



Form & Structure

- Interior monologue
- Stream of consciousness
- interwoven paragraphs / structure

For having lived in Westminster—how many years now? over twenty,—one feels even in the midst of the traffic, or waking at night, Clarissa was positive, a particular hush, or solemnity; an indescribable pause; a suspense (but that might be her heart, affected, they said, by influenza) before Big Ben strikes.

(Mrs. Dalloway,
page 4)

- Omniscient narrator, perceived time
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