Mrs. Dalloway
by Virginia Woolf

ENGL 56B Presentation
Hortencia Herrera
Kathrin Keil
Monica Gonzales
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
Septimus Warren Smith

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

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

- Omniscient narrator, perceived time

(Mrs. Dalloway, page 4)