The Hours

Marica Morikot
Keywords

- Stream of consciousness
- Point of view
- Postmodern
- Internal conflict
- Mortality
- Mental Illness
- Domesticity
Michael Cunningham

- Born: Cincinnati, Ohio 1952
- Education: read *Mrs. Dalloway* at age 15
- Graduated: Stanford University 1975
  - B.A. In English Lit.
- University of Iowa – Writer's Workshop 1980
  - M.F.A.
- Debut novel: *Golden State* 1984
The Hours

- Publication 1998
- Awards
  - Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner
- Structure
  - Retrospective narrative
    - Point of view
  - Stream of Consciousness
- Themes
  - Mortality
  - Mental illness
  - Switched domestic roles
Inspiration

- Mrs. Dalloway
  - Read it at age 15
- Virginia Woolf
  - QUOTE FROM INTERVIEW
Main Characters

- Virginia Woolf
  - 1923
  - Sussex, England
- Laura Brown
  - 1949
  - Los Angeles
- Clarissa Vaughn
  - Late twentieth century
  - New York City
Virginia Woolf

- Commits suicide in the Prologue
- English novelist
- Wife of publisher, Leonard Woolf
- Struggles with headaches and voices in her head
- Switched domestic roles
- Begins writing *Mrs. Dalloway*
Laura Brown

- Housewife and young mother in 1949, L.A.
- Married to war veteran, Dan Brown
- Suffers from depression
- Guilty and resentful of her domestic life
- Reads the novel Mrs. Dalloway
Clarissa Vaughn

- Nicknamed, *Mrs. Dalloway* by her close friend and ex-lover, Richard
- Lesbian editor in New York City
- Lives a domestic life with her lover, Sally
- Fears mortality
- Questions her decisions that lead her to this point in her life
Similarities to *Mrs. Dalloway*

- Clarissa is given the name Dalloway by Richard
- Richard becomes depressed from contracting AIDS
  - Relevance to Septimus
  - Ex-lover, Louis = Peter Walsh?
- Sally and Clarissa's lesbian relationship
Similarities continued...

- **Stolen Kisses**
  - Clarissa and Sally
    - Virginia and her sister
    - Laura and her neighbor

- **Flowers**
  - Dan buys flowers for Laura
  - Sally buys flowers for Clarissa

- **Party**
  - Clarissa plans a party later that day
  - Invites a friend she runs into while running errands
  - Glimpse of a celebrity
Critics

- **Praise**
  - Washington Post
  - Los Angeles Times
  - New York Times

- **Critique**
  - Readers
    - Tries to interpret the lives of women from the outside looking in
    - Mimicry of Virginia Woolf's classic
The Hours film

- Premiered in December 2003
- Directed by Stephen Daldry
- Screenplay by David Hare
- Staring
  - Meryl Streep as Clarissa Vaughn
  - Nicole Kidman as Virginia Woolf
  - Susan Surandon as Laura Brown
- “Capturing Virginia”
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30TOgCVavV8&NR=1&feature=fvwp