

Dear Students of IB English A: Literature, Year 2, Higher & Standard Levels,

Congratulations on the successful completion of the first year of IB English A: Literature and welcome to the second phase of your IB English program.

You don't need to purchase any of the texts studied in the second year. All reading material will be provided by your teacher.

The Summer Assignment

Overview:

You will complete the first part of an asynchronous component, focusing on the analysis of characterization in Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*. To do so, you will analyze the character(s) assigned to you by your teacher:

Mrs. Ramsay – Elina, Stella

Lily Briscoe – Michaela, Marouso

Mr. Ramsay – Alex, Linda

William Bankes & Charles Tansley – Dimitris, Emma

James & Cam Ramsey – Grace, Paraskevi, Sophie

In September, you will post your essay in the relevant Moodle forum. Afterwards, you will write and upload a review essay, discussing your peers' responses.

Prompt:

Analyze your assigned character(s) in a 1500-word essay, responding to the following question:

How does *To the Lighthouse's* characterization enable Virginia Woolf to develop her theme?

Instructions:

To prepare your answer:

- Study the novel and the reading material on Moodle (*To the Lighthouse* tab).
- Identify the novel's theme. Take into account how the Bloomsbury Group's reading of G. E. Moore's *Principia Ethica* and Woolf's subversion of Western metaphysics enable the resolution of the opposition between order and chaos, meaning and meaninglessness, wholeness and fragmentation. You should also consider how the psychological implications of Woolf's philosophical meditations anticipate Herbert Marcuse's theorization of primary narcissism in *Eros and Civilization*.
- Consider whether the character you analyze exhibits complexity, development, and depth.
- Pay attention to the indirect presentation of character through action, thought, and speech: what characters do, what characters say or think about themselves or other characters, and whether there is correspondence between their words, thoughts, and actions.

- Consider how plot/ structure affects characterization. In particular, how does Woolf reconsider the relation between fabula and syuzhet/ story and plot as well as temporal relations, especially ones pertaining to duration?
- Consider how narration affects indirect character presentation.
- Consider how Woolf's post-impressionist, cubist focalization enables penetration into the characters' inner world.
- Consider how setting affects characterization. How does Woolf's replacement of the external space of social action with an inner psychological space enable the internalization of external space through the digging out of "beautiful caves"?
- Consider how the use of language, which achieves an extraordinary literary density, approximating the status of prose poetry, affects characterization.
- Consider how thought presentation affects characterization. In particular, how does the stream-of-consciousness technique enable the exploration of inner psychological spaces through cave-digging and tunneling?
- Consider how free indirect discourse affects characterization. In particular, how does the Woolfian narrator's "selective absorbency" enable the transcendence of the opposition between narrative voice and character consciousness?
- Consider how Woolf's characterization contributes to an overall modernist representation.

Best wishes for a safe, happy and productive summer!