

The Waves Virginia Woolf

The Waves is a 1931 novel by Virginia Woolf. Consisting of six characters: Bernard, Louis, Neville, Jinny, Susan, and Rhoda, The Waves explores ideas of individualism and self as it follows the narrators from childhood to adulthood. This book was voted the 16th greatest novel ever written according to a 2015 BBC poll. This book has 178 pages in the PDF version, and was originally published in 1931.

This volume is a student compendium of the three most frequently-studied novels of Virginia Woolf: Mrs Dalloway, To the Lighthouse and The Waves. In the introduction the novels are discussed within the context of Woolf's oeuvre as a whole. Each novel is then considered individually as its genesis is traced from originating idea to final version.

Eric Warner places The Waves in the context of Virginia Woolf's career and of the 'modern' age in which it was written. He examines how she came to write the novel, what her concerns were at the time, and how it is linked both in style and theme with her earlier, more accessible works. A final chapter explores the problematic relation of the book to the genre of the novel.

The Waves, first published in 1931, is Virginia Woolf's most experimental novel. It consists of soliloquies spoken by the book's six characters: Bernard, Susan, Rhoda, Neville, Jinny, and Louis. Also important is Percival, the seventh character, though

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readers never hear him speak in his own voice. The soliloquies that span the characters' lives are broken up by nine brief third-person interludes detailing a coastal scene at varying stages in a day from sunrise to sunset. As the six characters or "voices" speak Woolf explores concepts of individuality, self and community. Each character is distinct, yet together they compose (as Ida Klitgrd has put it) a gestalt about a silent central consciousness. Plot : Bernard is a story-teller, always seeking some elusive and apt phrase. Some critics see Woolf's friend E. M. Forster as an inspiration for him. Louis is an outsider who seeks acceptance and success. Some critics see in him aspects of T. S. Eliot, whom Woolf knew well. Neville, who may be partly based on another of Woolf's friends, Lytton Strachey, seeks out a series of men, each of whom becomes the present object of his transcendent love. Jinny is a socialite whose world view corresponds to her physical, corporeal beauty. There is evidence that she is based on Woolf's friend Mary Hutchinson. Susan flees the city, preferring the countryside, where she grapples with the thrills and doubts of motherhood. Some aspects of Susan recall Woolf's sister Vanessa Bell. Rhoda is riddled with self-doubt and anxiety, always rejecting and indicting human compromise, always seeking out solitude. She echoes Shelley's poem "The Question" (paraphrased: I shall gather my flowers and present them -- O! to whom?). Rhoda resembles Virginia Woolf in some respects. Percival, partly based on Woolf's brother, Thoby Stephen, is the god-like but morally flawed hero of the other six. He dies midway through the novel, while engaged

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on an imperialist quest in British-dominated colonial India. Percival never speaks on his own in *The Waves*, but readers learn about him in detail as the other six characters repeatedly describe and reflect on him. The novel follows its six narrators from childhood through adulthood. Woolf is concerned with the individual consciousness and the ways in which multiple consciousnesses can weave together. Adeline Virginia Woolf (ne Stephen; 25 January 1882 - 28 March 1941), known professionally as Virginia Woolf, was an English writer and one of the foremost modernists of the twentieth century. During the interwar period, Woolf was a significant figure in London literary society and a central figure in the influential Bloomsbury Group of intellectuals. Her most famous works include the novels *Mrs Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927) and *Orlando* (1928), and the book-length essay *A Room of One's Own* (1929), with its famous dictum, "A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction." Woolf suffered from severe bouts of mental illness throughout her life, thought to have been what is now termed bipolar disorder, and committed suicide by drowning in 1941 at the age of 59. The difficulty of assigning genre to this novel is complicated by the fact that *The Waves* blurs distinctions between prose and poetry, allowing the novel to flow between six not dissimilar interior monologues. The book similarly breaks down boundaries between people, and Woolf herself wrote in her *Diary* that the six were not meant to be separate "characters" at all, but rather facets of consciousness illuminating a sense of continuity. Even the term "novel" may not accurately describe the complex

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Innovative and deeply poetic, The Waves is often regarded as Virginia Woolf's masterpiece. It begins with six children--three boys and three girls--playing in a garden by the sea, and follows their lives as they grow up, experience friendship and love, and grapple with the death of their beloved friend Percival. Instead of describing their outward expressions of grief, Woolf draws her characters from the inside, revealing their inner lives: their aspirations, their triumphs and regrets, their awareness of unity and isolation.

Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2, University of Bamberg (Lehrstuhl für Englische

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Literaturwissenschaft), course: Virginia Woolf, language: English, abstract: Originally, what later became *The Waves* was called *The Moths*. Virginia Woolf began writing it on July 2nd 1929 . It underwent drastic changes during the writing and revising processes, that lasted until the year 1931, when it was eventually published by The Hogarth Press- the Woolf ?s own publishing house. *The Waves* certainly and rightfully is regarded as Virginia Woolf ?s most abstract and experimental, therefore least accessible novel. The 'story' is told through 'dramatic soliloquies' spoken by the six characters Rhoda, Jinny, Bernard, Susan, Neville and Louis. There is no real, direct interaction and talks between these characters, but they mean a lot to each other and bond from their common childhood onwards. A seventh character, Percival, is introduced to the reader by the monologues of the six, he never speaks for himself ,though. The whole plot is enclosed in a scene, that can be found daily all around the world: a sunrise over the ocean and the nearby beach, as well as a garden/nature scenery. Each of these interposed chapters symbolizes a stage of life the protagonists are now at and the developments they face. The main questions I will ask and set out to answer are what the theme of waves and water are supposed to symbolize and what role nature ,ubiquitous in this novel, plays and signifies for the respective characters during their childhood. These questions appear to be central for the understanding of this piece of writing, as they do not occur in any of Woolfe ?s other works I have read so far.I will also try to analyze the importance of the friends the characters have made and their

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feelings during the farewell dinner for Percival. Firstly, I will give a general overview about the way the novel is conceived. Secondly, I will present the main characters and their general characteristics and then give the plot of the novel. After that, I will examine the role of the waves and the beach scenery in the novel and what nature means to the individual characters and their lives. Eventually, the focus will lie on what the reunion on the occasion of Percival's imminent departure, set years after their last encounter, means to the characters and whether time and distance have alienated them from each other and nature. I will achieve these goals by the technique of 'close reading', ie. the approach to this study will mainly be text-based and contrastive.

The Waves is a Novel by: Virginia Woolf. it's considered as Woolf's Most Experimental Novel, it follows seven people through soliloquies as they grow up and seek and develop their own world views.

The Waves' and 'The Years' are two of Virginia Woolf's finest novels, here they are collected together.

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Tracing the lives of a group of friends, this novel follows their development from childhood to youth and middle age. Separately and together, they query the relationship of past to present, and the meaning of life itself.

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One of Woolf's most experimental novels, *The Waves* presents six characters in monologue - from morning until night, from childhood into old age - against a background of the sea. The result is a glorious chorus of voices that exists not to remark on the passing of events but to celebrate the connection between its various individual parts. We are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection. Many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades, and therefore have not been accessible to the general public. The aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature, and our view is that this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. The contents of the vast majority of titles in the Classic Library have been scanned from the original works. To ensure a high quality product, each title has been

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