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CHARACTERISTICS OF HEROINES IN VIRGINIA WOOLF'S WORKS

Annotation

This comprehensive guide delves into the distinctive characteristics of female characters within Virginia Woolf's seminal literary works, providing profound insights for an educational-methodological manual. Woolf's literary genius is particularly evident in her ability to craft women of immense psychological depth, who often defy and critique the restrictive gender roles prevalent in early 20th-century society. Through an examination of her pioneering use of «stream-of-consciousness» and her incisive feminist perspectives, this study highlights how characters such as Clarissa Dalloway, Lily Briscoe, and Orlando embody complex interiority, struggle for personal and intellectual autonomy, and engage in intricate relational dynamics. This resource aims to facilitate an in-depth understanding of Woolf's contributions to literary modernism and feminist thought, offering a rich framework for pedagogical application.

Key Words: Virginia Woolf, female characters, modernism, stream-of-consciousness, feminism, gender roles, psychological depth, character analysis, literary criticism, women's independence, social critique, identity, autonomy, Orlando, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, A Room of One's Own.

VIRDJINIYA VULF ASARLARIDAGI QAHRAMON AYOLLARNING XARAKTER XUSUSIYATLARI

Annotatsiya

Ushbu keng qamrovli qo'llanma Virjiniya Vulfning muhim adabiy asarlaridagi ayol obrazlarining o'ziga xos xususiyatlarini tahlil qilib, ta'limiy-metodik qo'llanma uchun chuqur ilmiy qarashlarni taqdim etadi. Vulfning adabiy dahosi, ayniqsa, XX asr boshlaridagi jamiyatda hukm surgan cheklovchi jinsiy rollarni inkor etuvchi va tanqid qiluvchi, murakkab psixologik chuqurlikka ega ayollar obrazlarini yaratish mahoratida namoyon bo'ladi. Uning «ong oqimi» (stream of consciousness) uslubidan novatorona foydalanishi va keskin feministik qarashlarini tahlil etish orqali, mazkur tadqiqot Klarissa Dalloway, Lili Brisko va Orlando kabi qahramonlarning murakkab ichki dunyosi, shaxsiy va intellektual mustaqillik uchun kurashi hamda murakkab ijtimoiy munosabatlarga kirishishini yoritadi. Ushbu manba Vulfning adabiy modernizm va feministik tafakkurga qo'shgan hissasini chuqur anglashga yordam beradi hamda uni pedagogik jarayonda qo'llash uchun boy nazariy asos yaratadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Virjiniya Vulf, ayol qahramonlar, modernizm, ong oqimi, feminizm, jinsiy rollar, psixologik chuqurlik, obraz tahlili, adabiy tanqid, ayollar mustaqilligi, ijtimoiy tanqid, identiklik, avtonomiya, Orlando, Mrs. Dalloway, Mayoq sari.

ХАРАКТЕРНЫЕ ЧЕРТЫ ГЕРОИНЬ В ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИЯХ ВИРДЖИНИИ ВУЛФ

Аннотация

Это всеобъемлющее руководство исследует особенности женских персонажей в ключевых произведениях Вирджинии Вулф, предоставляя глубокие аналитические сведения для учебно-методического пособия. Литературный гений Вулф особенно проявляется в её умении создавать женские образы с огромной психологической глубиной, которые бросают вызов и критикуют ограничительные гендерные роли, господствовавшие в обществе начала XX века. Анализируя её новаторское использование «потока сознания» и пронизательные феминистские взгляды, исследование подчеркивает, как такие персонажи, как Кларисса Даллоуэй, Лили Бриско и Орландо, воплощают сложный внутренний мир, стремление к личной и интеллектуальной автономии, а также участвуют в сложных межличностных взаимодействиях. Данный материал направлен на глубокое понимание вклада Вулф в литературный модернизм и феминистскую мысль, предлагая богатую основу для педагогического применения.

Ключевые слова: Вирджиния Вулф, женские персонажи, модернизм, поток сознания, феминизм, гендерные роли, психологическая глубина, анализ персонажей, литературная критика, женская независимость, социальная критика, идентичность, автономия, Орландо, Миссис Даллоуэй, К маяку, Своя комната.

Introduction. Virginia Woolf (1882–1941) stands as a monumental figure in modernist literature, renowned for her profound contributions to narrative technique and her revolutionary portrayal of female characters. Breaking away from conventional literary representations, Woolf delved into the nuanced inner lives of women, illuminating their thoughts, emotions, and struggles against the backdrop of societal constraints in early 20th-century Britain. Her oeuvre,

encompassing influential novels such as Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, and Orlando, alongside powerful essays like A Room of One's Own, presents women not as passive archetypes but as dynamic, complex individuals actively grappling with identity, autonomy, and the rigid expectations imposed by a patriarchal society. Woolf's innovative use of the «stream-of-consciousness» technique allowed her to capture the fluid, often fragmented nature of human thought, offering

readers an unprecedented intimacy with her characters' psychological landscapes. This narrative approach was particularly impactful in conveying the rich, often suppressed, inner worlds of women, challenging Victorian and Edwardian stereotypes that frequently reduced female characters to one-dimensional roles. By focusing on the internal monologue and subjective experience, Woolf underscored the intellectual and emotional depth of her heroines, asserting their significance beyond their domestic or social functions. The historical context in which Woolf wrote is crucial to understanding her characters.

Literature Review. The scholarly discourse surrounding Virginia Woolf's female characters is rich and extensive, drawing from biographical, feminist, and formalist critical lenses. Academics have consistently recognized Woolf's pivotal role in challenging gendered oppression and expanding the literary representation of women. Key studies highlight her dedication to depicting the feminine experience as both constrained and complex, revealing the tensions between traditional gender roles and the burgeoning desire for female agency. Woolf's seminal essay, *A Room of One's Own* (1929), is frequently cited as a cornerstone of feminist literary criticism. In this work, Woolf powerfully articulates the necessity for women writers to possess both financial independence and a private space—a «room of one's own»—to cultivate their creative and intellectual potential. She critiques the historical barriers that stifled female genius, positing that a lack of such resources has historically prevented women from fully realizing their artistic capabilities. This essay serves as a theoretical framework for understanding the struggles for autonomy and self-expression observed in many of her fictional heroines, underscoring how economic and spatial freedom are inextricably linked to creative flourishing. The discussions surrounding this essay, particularly in academic journals and online forums, consistently reinforce its enduring message about women's independence. Woolf's masterful application of psychological realism, primarily through the «stream-of-consciousness» technique, is a central theme in literary analysis. In novels like *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925), scholars examine how the narrative immerses readers in the intricate inner world of Clarissa Dalloway, capturing her memories, anxieties, and observations over a single day. This technique reveals the profound emotional and intellectual depth of her characters, moving beyond superficial portrayals to expose the complex interplay of public persona and private thought. Critic Eric Sandberg's *Virginia Woolf: Experiments in Character* (2022) explores how Woolf constructs her characters as dynamic «types» and «figures,» bridging biographical experiences with fictional representations. Similarly, analyses of *Moments of Being* highlight Woolf's exploration of personal growth and the overcoming of shame, themes often mirrored in her fictional heroines' journeys toward self-actualization. *Orlando* (1928) represents a radical departure in Woolf's exploration of gender and identity. This fantastical biography, inspired by her relationship with Vita Sackville-West, features a protagonist who shifts gender across centuries.

Research Methodology. This study employs a qualitative, textual analysis methodology, grounded in close reading and comparative literary criticism. The primary objective is to systematically identify, analyze, and synthesize the recurring characteristics of female characters across Virginia Woolf's major works, as well as her influential essays. This approach is particularly suited for literary education, fostering deep engagement with the texts and encouraging critical interpretation.

The core of this research is based on a selection of Woolf's pivotal works that exemplify her diverse portrayals of women. These include:

- *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925): Explores the interiority of a high-society woman, her past, present, and the societal pressures she faces.
- *To the Lighthouse* (1927): Contrasts traditional and independent female roles through the figures of Mrs. Ramsay and Lily Briscoe.
- *Orlando* (1928): A radical exploration of gender fluidity and identity across centuries.
- *A Room of One's Own* (1929): A seminal essay articulating the material and social conditions necessary for female creative expression.
- «Professions for Women» (1931): An essay discussing the challenges faced by women entering professional life and the «Angel in the House» archetype.

Analysis and Results. Virginia Woolf's literary landscape is populated by an array of female characters who are not merely reflections of their time but complex psychological entities, challenging societal norms and embodying diverse facets of womanhood. Through her revolutionary narrative techniques, Woolf provides an unparalleled exploration of their inner lives, struggles, and triumphs. The hallmark of Woolf's characterization lies in her profound ability to render the inner consciousness of her female characters. Through «stream-of-consciousness,» she allows readers to experience the unfiltered flow of thoughts, memories, and emotions, revealing a depth previously uncommon in literature. This technique humanizes her characters, allowing for a multifaceted understanding of their experiences. In *Mrs. Dalloway*, Clarissa Dalloway's consciousness is a vibrant tapestry of present observations, past regrets, and future anxieties, all unfolding over a single day in London. Her preparations for a party become a conduit for deep introspection, exploring themes of aging, lost love, and the societal expectations placed upon her. Clarissa embodies a tension between her public, socially conforming self and her private, questioning interiority. Her thoughts on her youthful affection for Sally Seton reveal a fluidity in her emotional and sexual identity, challenging rigid societal norms. The narrative often draws parallels between Clarissa and Septimus Warren Smith, a war veteran suffering from shell shock, highlighting a shared human vulnerability to societal pressures and emotional isolation, despite their vastly different social standings. Lily Briscoe in *To the Lighthouse* represents the intellectual and artistic woman struggling for recognition and self-expression. Her internal monologues are dominated by her artistic vision and her attempts to complete a painting, which symbolize her broader quest for identity and meaning. Lily's resistance to Mr. Ramsay's intellectual dominance and her ultimate completion of her artwork signify a triumph of female creativity and independence against patriarchal dismissal. Her journey illustrates the psychological resilience required to pursue artistic integrity in a world that often undervalues women's creative contributions. Woolf's characters frequently challenge and subvert the rigid gender roles imposed by society, exploring themes of personal liberation and the fluidity of identity.

Conclusion. Virginia Woolf's female characters represent a transformative force in literature, embodying psychological intricacy, gender subversion, and relational vitality that continue to resonate in contemporary feminist discourse. Her oeuvre offers an inexhaustible resource for understanding the complexities of womanhood in the early 20th century and beyond. Through meticulous narrative technique and profound psychological insight, Woolf crafted women who constantly navigate the tensions between tradition and modernity, conformity and rebellion, and public expectation versus private identity, profoundly influencing global literary pedagogy. At the core of Woolf's characterization is the unparalleled psychological depth that

elevates her heroines beyond superficial portraits. Clarissa Dalloway, the central figure in *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925), exemplifies this through her stream-of-consciousness reflections on a single day in June 1923. As the novel unfolds, Clarissa's mind weaves together vivid memories of her youth at Bourton, her intense emotional bond with Sally Seton, and the persistent presence of Septimus Warren Smith's trauma, which subtly parallels her own unspoken despair. This technique, described as an «impressionistic flow of human thought,» reveals Clarissa's remarkable resilience even amidst profound fragility. She orchestrates a party that symbolizes the social fabric of post-war London, yet internally grapples with existential dread and the relentless march of time. Her internal monologue, «She felt very young; at the same time unspeakably aged,» encapsulates the duality of her existence – a vibrant public persona masking an introspective and often melancholy inner life. This profound exploration, arguably

influenced by Woolf's own experiences with mental health, teaches educators to integrate discussions of psychological realism and its intersection with societal pressures. Pedagogical exercises such as journaling from a character's perspective or analyzing the symbolic significance of objects in their inner landscape can foster empathy and critical understanding among students. In sum, Woolf's female characters – psychologically complex, gender-fluid, and relationally vibrant – offer timeless pedagogical value. They serve not only as subjects for literary study but also as catalysts for empathy, autonomy, and social critique, empowering future generations to engage with literature as a means of understanding and transforming the world. This guide, with its exhaustive depth, equips teachers to foster critical thinking and ensure Woolf's enduring legacy in classrooms worldwide.

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