

## **Why you should read Mrs. Dalloway...**

1. According to the Detroit Free Press, Woolf is the only woman writer and the 5<sup>th</sup> most popular writer on HotBot's list of most actively sought writers on a list that includes James Joyce, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, Jack Kerouac, etc. Find out why!!
2. Virginia Woolf is a master of the "stream of consciousness" technique of writing; she recreates the meanderings of human consciousness in an artful, yet engaging manner.
3. Mrs. Dalloway is an uncompromising, yet reverent tribute to the city of London.
4. Woolf addresses the concepts of time and sanity and mortality – and how they intersect – in a thought-provoking, disturbing, and exhilarating manner.

## **Why you may struggle with Mrs. Dalloway...**

1. Since she is most interested in recreating consciousness, plot is de-emphasized and may seem hard to follow at times.
2. Without chapter breaks, Woolf may leave you feeling a bit exhausted and overwhelmed at times.
3. Woolf's constant awareness of mortality is both exhilarating and debilitating to her characters – and to her readers at times.
4. If your edition includes a foreword or introduction, consider reading it half-way through the novel; wait until you have already formed your own first impressions, but could benefit from an "expert" opinion.

### **Still interested?**

**Download the novel for free at one of the following sites:**

<http://www.gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200991h.html>

<http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91md/>

**Brief description of "stream of consciousness":**

[http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/lit\\_terms/stream.html](http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/lit_terms/stream.html)