

Meistarklases nosaukums:

Virdžīnija Vulfas dzīvē, literatūrā un kino

Mērķauditorija:

Angļu valodas skolotāji

Sagatavoja:

Āgenskalna Valsts ģimnāzijas skolotāji: Inga Harmsone, Mārtiņš Driksna

Anotācija:

Meistarklase paredzēta Angļu valoda II mācību stundu gatavošanas idejām. Piedāvājam V. Vulfas romāna “Deloveja kundze” un M. Kaningema romāna “Stundas” ekranizāciju analīzi, kas balstīti uz V. Vulfas dzīves notikumiem.

Izmantotie resursi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyr53KdlbQs&t=2s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHMf_MbHLhI&t=1539s

English language II

Virginia Woolf's life, literature and movies



Teachers of Agenskalns State gymnasium: Inga Harmsone

Mārtiņš Driksna

Importance

- 'Skola 2030' plan in English includes analysis of literary works
- Topics reflected in V. Woolf's works are also important in today's society and lead to debate

Achievable Result

- Students get to know V. Woolf's biography and literary works (movies)
- Students develop skills such as:
 - Making comparisons
 - Ability to analyse movies
 - Critical thinking
 - Social skills (group work)
 - Improve their vocabulary and listening skills

Used methods

- Discussion
- Group work
- Brainstorming
- Film analysis
- Handouts
- Usage of digital media
- Means of checking the acquired knowledge
 - Final test

Virginia Woolf

- Do you have any associations with the author?
- What do you know about her life?
- Are there any similar problems encountered in our society in comparison to the Woolf's time? Give examples!

Virginia Woolf

(25 January 1882 – 28 March 1941)

- an English writer
- used the technique called the stream of consciousness
- home-schooled, supported the movement for women's rights to get higher education
- formed the artistic and literary Bloomsbury Group
- founded the Hogarth Press
- in 1915 she published her first novel *The Voyage Out*
- the novels *Mrs Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927) and *Orlando* (1928) and essays *A Room of One's Own* (1929)
- supported and inspired feminism movement
- suffered from her mental illness and attempted suicide at least twice
- in 1941 Woolf died by drowning herself

Mrs. Dalloway and The Hours

- What kind of emotions did you have when you viewed these movies?

Group work

- You are going to be divided into 3 groups; each group will receive a specific task based on the 2 movies that they saw!
 - Group 1 (Comparison of characters)
 - Group 2 (Comparison of themes)
 - Group 3 (Similarities in the plot)
- Discussion in groups and making the presentation about the given task (15 minutes)
- Presentation (speech) 3 minutes (other groups may add some facts after the end of speech)

Group work 15 minutes

Comparison of characters

The Hours		Mrs Dalloway
Clarissa Vaughn	vs	Clarissa Dalloway
Richard Brown	vs	Septimus Warren Smith
Louis	vs	Peter Walsh
Sally	vs	Richard Dalloway

Comparison of characters

The Hours

Clarissa Vaughn

- a bisexual editor, living in New York city, her nickname – Mrs Dalloway
- questions her life choices and wonders about the mysteries of death
- sees her youth as the best time in her life
- chose not to be with Richard but with Sally
- is organizing the party in Richard's honour

vs

Mrs Dalloway

Clarissa Dalloway

- an upper-class housewife in her 50s, living in London
- often questions life's true meaning and her life choices
- struggles to balance her internal life with the external world
- considers aging and death with trepidation, sees her youth as the best time in her life
- sacrificed passion for the security of an upper-class life
- chose to be with Richard, not with Peter or Sally
- is organizing the party in Richard's honour

The Hours

Richard Brown

- a writer, Clarissa's ex-lover and best friend
- was abandoned by his mother in the childhood and it affected his life a lot
- suffering from AIDS that caused mental health problems
- commits suicide by jumping out of the window in front of Clarissa

vs

Mrs Dalloway

Septimus Warren Smith

- a WWI veteran suffering from shell shock, has mental problems
- lives in his internal world, talks to his dead friend Evans whose death affected his life a lot
- after the war he regards human nature as evil and believes he is guilty of not being able to feel
- commits suicide by jumping out of the window in front of his wife

THE HOURS

Louis

vs

MRS DALLOWAY

Peter Walsh

- an old friend of Clarissa's and Richard's, Richard's ex-lover
- moved to San Francisco to teach drama
- involved in a love triangle with Clarissa and Richard
- comes back specifically for Clarissa's party

- an old close friend of Clarissa's
- was and still is in love with Clarissa but was rejected by her, also involved in a love triangle
- moved to India but has come back and visits Clarissa and also comes to her party
- he fears he has wasted his life, cannot have even stable romantic relationships
- is like a storm, thundering and crashing, unpredictable even to himself
- severely critical of others, especially the Dalloways, does not see his own shortcomings

The Hours

Sally

- Clarissa's girlfriend, a producer at public TV
- she is independent from Clarissa and goes to lunch with an old friend without Clarissa
- she cares about Clarissa and buys her flowers on her way home but does not show true affection and passion

vs

Mrs Dalloway

Richard Dalloway

- Clarissa's husband, a member of the Parliament
- simple, hard-working, sensible and loves Clarissa and their daughter
- considers tradition of prime importance, rather than passion or open communication, he does not understand Clarissa's desires
- buys flowers for Clarissa coming back from the lunch but is too reserved to say that he loves her

Comparison of themes

- Death, depression, mental illness
 - The Hours Mrs. Dalloway
- Social roles
 - The Hours Mrs. Dalloway
- Sexuality
 - The Hours Mrs. Dalloway
- Search for perfection
 - The Hours Mrs. Dalloway

Themes

- **Death, depression, mental illness**

The Hours

- Virginia is afraid she is losing control over her mental illness and views suicide as an escape. At the end she drowns herself.

- Laura hates her role as a housewife and sees suicide as a comfort. Laura decides to commit suicide but changes her mind.

- Clarissa witnesses her friend commit suicide and thinking about the past wonders if her best days are behind her.

- Richard is ill with AIDS and suffers from depression that leads him to the suicide.

Mrs. Dalloway

- Clarissa knows that this life will come to an end and this thought is comforting for her.

- Clarissa accepts that the life she has is all she will get, and her best days are over. She hides her problems by throwing parties.

- Septimus is obsessed with death, he fears the doctors will take his freedom away, so he kills himself to stay free.

- **Social roles**

The Hours

- Virginia struggles with her mental illness. She wonders why she cannot be an authoritative head of house like her sister and manage her servants properly.
- Clarissa wonders if making safe choices was the right thing to do and what her life would have been like if she had stayed with Richard.
- Laura is against the social roles she is placed in, she is unhappy with her life as a housewife, she married her husband, a WWII hero, out of sense of obligation.

Mrs. Dalloway

- Clarissa is an upper-class housewife, married to a politician that allows her to throw parties for other high society members.
- Clarissa is always seeking to please others and wants everyone to like her. She wonders what it would be like not to care of others' opinions.
- Clarissa also wonders what it would have been like if she had married a different person and hadn't made safe decisions.
- Septimus does not want to accept his role and do what doctors tell him to do.
- Clarissa and Sally, they both considered in their youth that marriage was the end of woman's life and they wanted to change the world but now they are married to wealthy and influential men and have betrayed their ideals and dreams.

- Sexuality

The Hours

- Virginia is together with Leonard but their marriage is not full of passion, she is sexually attracted to women – the kiss between her and Vanessa, her sister.

- Clarissa is bisexual, she lives together with Sally but she had a relationship with Richard before and she is still close to him and maybe even regrets leaving him.

- Laura is married to Dan but she is not happy. The strange kiss between her and Kitty, her neighbour, tells us about her secret desires.

- Richard and Louis – ex-lovers, Richard was together with Clarissa as well.

Mrs. Dalloway

- The theme of homosexuality is very strong. Clarissa does not enjoy her marriage – poor communication and a lack of connection, she sleeps in her own room and her isolation is a sexual failure to connect with her husband Richard.

- Clarissa remembers her childhood friend and love's interest Sally with whom she shared a kiss – the most exquisite moment of her life. At that time their relationship was impossible.

- **Search for perfection**

The Hours

- Virginia wanted to be a perfect head of her house and she wanted to write a perfect novel, therefore, she rewrote and rewrote parts of the novel “Mrs Dalloway”.

- Clarissa wanted to be a perfect hostess, to organize a perfect party for Richard.

- Laura wanted to be a perfect mother and a perfect wife but she failed. She also tried to make a perfect cake.

Mrs. Dalloway

- Clarissa wanted to throw a perfect party and be a perfect wife for her husband. She works hard to make her party a success but she is conscious of Peter’s critical eye. What other people think of her and if they like her – it is very important for Clarissa.

Similarities in the plot

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____

Similar plot points

- 1) Both Clarissas go to buy flowers for their parties.
- 2) Both parties are to honour Richard.
- 3) Both Clarissas are interrupted with party plans by a person of their past – Peter and Louis.
- 4) Both of the parties bring ghosts from the past.
- 5) Both Richard and Sally have lunch without Clarissa.
- 6) Both Richard and Sally buy flowers for Clarissa to show their love.
- 7) Both Septimus and Richard are poets.
- 8) Both Septimus and Richard kill themselves by jumping out of the window.
- 9) Both Louis and Peter moved away after being rejected by their partners.
- 10) Both Clarissas have daughters.

Summary

- The task:
 - Think about today's lesson and write down 5 words or phrases that you associate with the topic discussed!
- Go to www.menti.com and use the code 5349 3131 (Write those ideas)
- Discussion about the most popular topics (feedback)

Thank you for your attention

and

have a nice day!