

1 Complete the information about *Mrs Dalloway*.

MRS DALLOWAY

Mrs Dalloway was written by ¹ (1882–1941).

She was part of the early twentieth century movement of ², which included other types of art such as music and painting. Mrs Dalloway (written in ³) is the fourth of her seven novels. The story is set in London on a single June day in ⁴, five years after the end of the First World War (1914–18).

In Modernist novels, the writer mostly examines the inner ⁵ of characters, rather than developing a ⁶ in which many things happen.

In Mrs Dalloway, there are no ⁷ ; instead there are sections that follow a particular character and their thoughts.

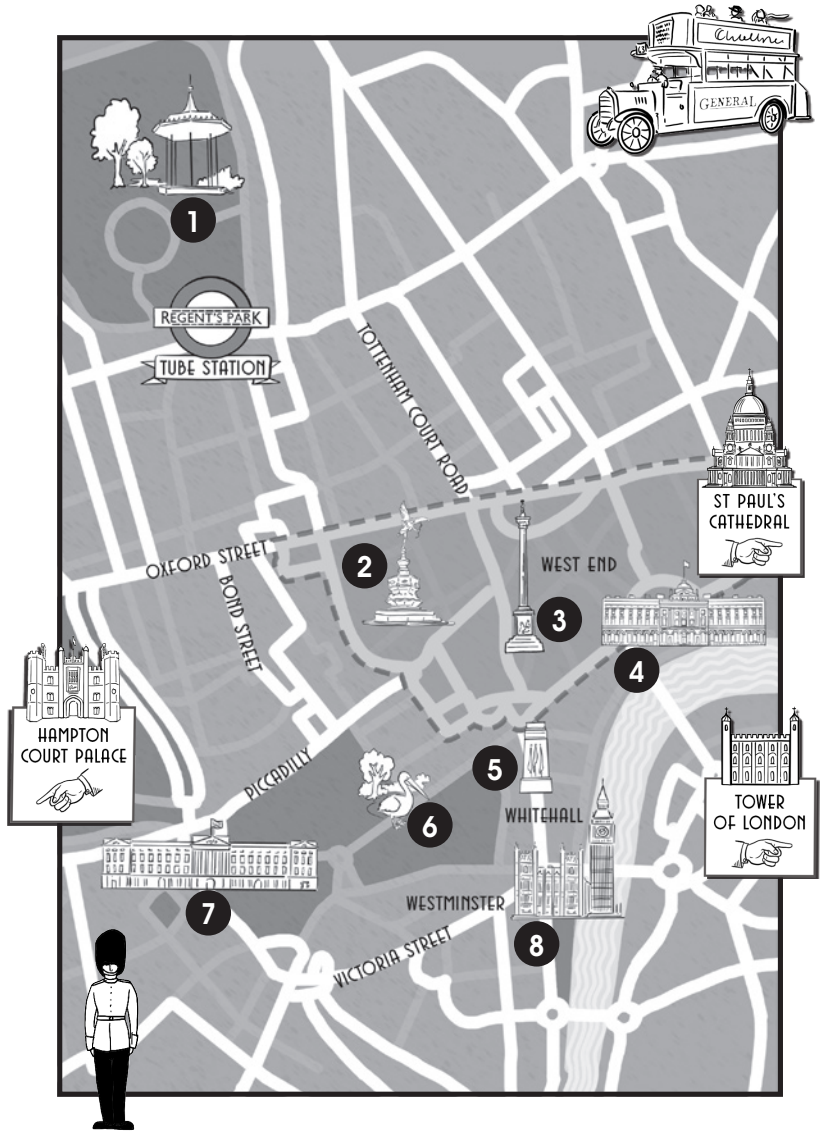
This way of writing is known as a ⁸ “ ” because it shows thoughts running through someone’s mind like a river.



2a Look at the map of London. Label these places on the map.

- St James's Park
- Regent's Park
- Houses of Parliament and Big Ben
- Buckingham Palace
- Somerset House
- Cenotaph
- Piccadilly Circus
- Trafalgar Square

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8



2b Match the places from the map (1–8) in 2a with the descriptions below.

- a This place is the London home of the British royal family.
- b Clarissa walks through here early in the morning and sees mist on the lake.
- c The strangeness of standing alone in London at half-past eleven floods over Peter here.
- d This place is where elected MPs like Richard Dalloway work.
- e Elizabeth looks at this place from the bus. It looks splendid and serious.
- f This war memorial was built in Whitehall in 1920.
- g Peter Walsh used to walk here as a child.
- h Peter Walsh follows the mysterious woman across here.

3 Write the characters' names next to their descriptions.

	CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION
1		People were beginning to compare her to a tall tree, a pale rose, a shy young deer, and she wanted to escape it. She so much preferred being left alone in the country with her father and the dogs, away from London, away from parties, away from men falling in love with her.
2		He could be impossible, unbearable, but wonderful to walk with on a morning in June like this.
3		She was never in the room for five minutes without making you feel how superior she was, how inferior you were; how poor she was, how rich you were. It was not really her that one hated, but the idea of her.
4		A charming woman. She was like a bird, blue-green, light, full of life, though she was over fifty and her hair had turned very white since her illness.
5		Thirty, pale-faced, wearing brown shoes and an old coat, he had that worried look in his brown eyes that makes complete strangers feel worried, too.
6		A little Italian woman with large eyes in a pointed face.
7		He was like a top-class servant – somebody who walked behind his employer carrying luggage, who could be trusted to send telegrams or to write letters for hostesses. He had some silly little job now, looking after the King's wine, or cleaning royal buttons.
8		Wild and romantic, she was the last person in the world one would have expected to marry a rich man and live in a huge house near Manchester.
9		He had seemed a nice, quiet man; a great friend of Septimus's, and he had been killed in the War
10		He would often travel sixty miles or more into the country to visit the unhappy rich, who could afford the very large price he rightly charged for his advice.

4 The book is written as a “stream of consciousness”. It includes memories of the past, reactions to the present and plans for the future. Sometimes we move between these different times within a sentence or a paragraph. Below are events from the beginning of the story (pages 11–15), but they are all in the present tense. Put them in the correct column and rewrite the tense if needed (use the simple past or the simple future).

Crowds of people dance all night.

Clarissa throws open the French windows at Bourton.

Clarissa walks through St James’s Park.

Hugh goes to a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Peter marries a woman he meets on the boat to India.

The doors in Mrs Dalloway’s house are taken off for the party.

Big Ben sounds.

The War ends.

Mrs Dalloway gives her party.

Clarissa passes a bookshop.

Clarissa quarrels with Peter.

Happened in the past	Happens in the present (on pages 11–15)	Will happen in the future

5a Reading *Mrs Dalloway* is sometimes like reading a poem; the author, Virginia Woolf, often uses images to compare things. Match the things with their comparisons (or descriptions) from the box.

the kiss of a wave, cool and sharp.	a child who runs outdoors.	
a pale moon above a garden.	a bird, flying from branch to branch.	a silent mist.
an arrow in her heart.	smoke.	a sheet.

- 1 The early morning air was like . . .
.....
- 2 Word travelled quickly up and down Bond Street like . . .
.....
- 3 Peter was overcome with his own sadness, which rose like . . .
.....
- 4 Clarissa had a coldness about her, which attached itself to her like . . .
.....
- 5 I haven't felt so young for years! thought Peter, feeling like . . .
.....
- 6 The thin sound of the old woman singing rose up into the air like . . .
.....
- 7 Sir William could feel Rezia's mind, like . . .
.....
- 8 Clarissa had felt the pain for years, like . . .
.....

5b Write your own description. Think of something to describe and compare it to something else. (For example, you could write about how you're feeling or what you can see.)

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6 Make nouns from the words in the table using these endings: *-ment*, *-ence*, *-ation*, *-ness*.
There is only one answer in each row.

	-ment	-ence	-ation	-ness
achieve (v.)				
admire (v.)				
black (adj.)				
clever (adj.)				
converse (v.)				
differ (v.)				
excite (v.)				
experience (v.)				
green (adj.)				
invite (v.)				
mad (adj.)				
move (v.)				
serious (adj.)				

7a Clarissa could have married Richard Dalloway, Peter Walsh or Hugh Whitbread.
The story is set in 1923. Did she make the right decision for that time, do you think?
Why?

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.....

.....

8 The story ends very suddenly. Write what you think happens next. Try to use the Modernist style of writing.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.