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OLD & MIDDLE ENGLISH

c. 700-1500

THE RENAISSANCE & JACOBEAN AGE

1500-1642

THE RESTORATION & 18TH CENTURY

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54	1860-1861	Great Expectations ★ IN THIS DEMO	Charles Dickens
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57	1874	Far from the Madding Crowd	Thomas Hardy
58	1878	The Return of the Native	Thomas Hardy
59	1886	The Mayor of Casterbridge	Thomas Hardy
60	1890 / 1891	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde
61	1891	Tess of the d'Urbervilles	Thomas Hardy

No.	Year	Work	Author
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63	1895	The Importance of Being Earnest	Oscar Wilde
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66	1900	Lord Jim	Joseph Conrad

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80	1932	Brave New World	Aldous Huxley
81	1935	Murder in the Cathedral	T. S. Eliot
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87	1949	Nineteen Eighty-Four	George Orwell
88	1951	The End of the Affair	Graham Greene
89	1953 (Paris) · 1955 (London)	Waiting for Godot	Samuel Beckett
90	1954	Lucky Jim	Kingsley Amis
91	1954	Lord of the Flies	William Golding
92	1956	Look Back in Anger	John Osborne
93	1957	Endgame	Samuel Beckett
94	1958	The Birthday Party	Harold Pinter

No.	Year	Work	Author
95	1958	Krapp's Last Tape	Samuel Beckett
96	1958	Our Man in Havana	Graham Greene
97	1960	The Caretaker	Harold Pinter
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100	1966 / 1967	Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead	Tom Stoppard
101	1969	The French Lieutenant's Woman	John Fowles



SAMPLE CHAPTER • C. 1588-1592

Doctor Faustus

Christopher Marlowe | c. 1588-1592 | Wittenberg, Rome & beyond | Renaissance Tragedy | A-text 1604 • B-text 1616

THE TRAGIC HERO

Doctor John Faustus

A brilliant German scholar of Wittenberg who has mastered logic, medicine, law and theology and finds them all too small. Hungry for limitless knowledge, power and pleasure, he turns to black magic and sells his soul to Lucifer in exchange for **24 years** of service from the devil Mephistophilis. The great Renaissance over-reacher.

"A sound magician is a mighty god."

Fate: carried off to hell by devils at midnight

Hell *The devils*

Mephistophilis — Lucifer's servant • Faustus's attendant devil

Role: Appears when Faustus conjures, first in an ugly shape, then, at Faustus's order, dressed as a Franciscan friar. He is strangely honest about his own suffering in hell, yet he tricks, distracts and threatens Faustus whenever he thinks of repenting.

"Why, this is hell, nor am I out of it."

Lucifer — Prince of devils

Role: The ruler of hell to whom Faustus signs away his soul.

The Seven Deadly Sins — A pageant staged by Lucifer

Role: Pride, Covetousness, Wrath, Envy, Gluttony, Sloth and Lechery each describe themselves in a comic parade, a device borrowed from the medieval morality play.

Voices for the Soul *Morality play elements*

The Good Angel — Voice of conscience

Role: Appears again and again, urging Faustus to turn back to God and repent.

"Faustus, repent; yet God will pity thee."

The Evil Angel — Voice of temptation

Role: Tempts Faustus with wealth and honour and tells him it is too late to be saved.

"Thou art a spirit; God cannot pity thee."

The Old Man — Faustus's last chance

Role: A holy man who begs Faustus to repent and says there is still an angel with a vial of grace above his head.

The Chorus — Prologue & epilogue

Role: Frames the play. The Prologue compares Faustus to Icarus, and the Epilogue warns the audience against his fate.

"Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight, / And burnèd is Apollo's laurel bough."

Scholars & Servants *Faustus's world*

Valdes & Cornelius — Friends who teach him magic

Role: Two magicians who encourage Faustus's interest in the "damned art" and teach him the basics of conjuring.

Wagner — Faustus's servant & student

Role: A cheeky servant who copies his master, conjuring devils to force the clown Robin into his service, a comic mirror of Faustus's pact.

Courts & Spirits *What his power is used for*

The Pope — At the feast of St Peter in Rome

Role: Made invisible, Faustus snatches the Pope's food and wine and boxes his ear. The friars curse him with "bell, book and candle". Anti-Catholic slapstick that pleased a Protestant audience.

Emperor Charles V — The German Emperor

Role: Faustus conjures spirits looking like **Alexander the Great and his paramour** to entertain him.

Helen of Troy — A spirit in Helen's shape

Role: Summoned first for the scholars, then as Faustus's lover. Critics note that embracing a demon seals his damnation.

"Was this the face that launched a thousand ships, / And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?"

Comic Characters *The parody subplot***Robin & Rafe** — Clowns · stable-hands (Dick in the B-text)

Role: Steal one of Faustus's conjuring books and accidentally summon Mephistophilis, who turns one into an ape and the other into a dog. Their low comedy parodies Faustus's high ambitions.

Memory Hook: 3 Warnings He Ignores

1. His Blood Congeals → Mephistophilis brings fire to melt it

As he signs the bond, his blood clots and stops flowing

2. "Homo, fuge!" → He is distracted by a devils' show

"Fly, O man!" appears written on his arm

3. The Old Man's Plea → He chooses Helen instead

A holy man begs him to repent

The Bond: 5 Conditions

- 1. A spirit** — Faustus may be a **spirit in form and substance**
- 2. A servant** — Mephistophilis will be **his servant, at his command**
- 3. Anything he wants** — Mephistophilis will **bring him whatever he desires**
- 4. Always near, unseen** — He will stay in Faustus's chamber or house, **invisible**

Famous Lines: Who Says What

- 1. "Settle thy studies, Faustus, and begin..."** — Faustus: opening soliloquy
- 2. "Divinity, adieu!"** — Faustus: rejecting theology for magic
- 3. "Why, this is hell, nor am I out of it."** — Mephistophilis: on hell as separation from God
- 4. "Hell hath no limits, nor is circumscribed / In one self place..."** — Mephistophilis: hell is a state of mind

Scene-by-Scene Summary**Stop 1: Prologue & the First Soliloquy**

- The Chorus introduces Faustus: low-born, a doctor of divinity at Wittenberg, whose "waxen wings" (like Icarus) take him too high.

Stop 2: Conjuring & the Pact

- Faustus conjures Mephistophilis, who comes of his own will, drawn by Faustus's abuse of God's name.

Stop 3: Doubts & Distractions

- Faustus asks for a wife; he is offered a devil dressed as a woman, and courtesans instead.

Stop 4: Travels & Tricks

- Faustus tours the universe and the world, and plays pranks on the Pope in Rome.

Stop 5: Helen & the Old Man

- Faustus shows the scholars Helen of Troy.

Stop 6: The Final Hour

- Faustus confesses to the scholars, who leave to pray.

Must-Know Exam Facts**FULL TITLE & TEXTS**

The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus. Written c. 1588–1592 (the date is debated). Two versions: the shorter **A-text (1604)** and the longer **B-text (1616)** with added scenes.

SOURCE

The **English Faust Book** (1592), an English translation by "P. F., Gent." of the German **Faustbuch** (1587), which told the legend of a real 16th-century German magician.

GENRE

A Renaissance tragedy built on a **medieval morality play** frame: Good and Evil Angels, the Seven Deadly Sins and the Old Man. It shows the clash between Renaissance ambition and medieval Christian belief.

VERSE & STAGING

Written mostly in **blank verse**; Ben Jonson praised "**Marlowe's mighty line**". The comic prose scenes parody the main plot. The first great Faustus was the actor **Edward Alleyn** (Admiral's Men).

SAMPLE CHAPTER • C. 1599-1601

Hamlet

William Shakespeare | c. 1599-1601 | Elsinore, Denmark | Revenge Tragedy | 5 Acts

THE CENTRE OF THE PLAY

Prince Hamlet

Prince of Denmark and student at Wittenberg. Son of the murdered King Hamlet and Queen Gertrude; nephew *and* stepson of Claudius. The Ghost orders revenge, and he delays: thinking, doubting, feigning madness (his "antic disposition").

"To be, or not to be, that is the question."

Fate: dies from Laertes's poisoned sword (Act 5)

Royal Family *Hamlet's family*

Claudius — King of Denmark · Hamlet's uncle & stepfather

Role: The villain. He poisoned his brother King Hamlet (poison poured in his ear as he slept in the orchard), took the crown and married Gertrude.

"O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven."

Outcome: Killed by Hamlet: poisoned sword + poisoned wine

Gertrude — Queen · Hamlet's mother

Role: Marries Claudius less than two months after her husband's death, which disgusts Hamlet ("Frailty, thy name is woman!").

"The lady doth protest too much, methinks."

Outcome: Dies drinking the poisoned cup meant for Hamlet

Ghost of King Hamlet — Hamlet's dead father

Role: Appears on the battlements, reveals that Claudius murdered him and demands revenge, but tells Hamlet to leave Gertrude "to heaven".

"Revenge his foul and most unnatural murder."

Outcome: Murdered by Claudius before the play begins

Polonius's Family *Father-son-daughter*

Polonius — Lord Chamberlain · father of Laertes & Ophelia

Role: Talkative, meddling royal adviser who loves spying. Believes Hamlet is mad with love for Ophelia.

"Brevity is the soul of wit."

Outcome: Killed by Hamlet through the arras (Act 3)

Laertes — Polonius's son · Hamlet's foil

Role: Returns from Paris to avenge his father, and acts at once where Hamlet delays. Plots with Claudius: a poisoned (unbated) sword in a "friendly" duel.

"I am justly kill'd with mine own treachery."

Outcome: Killed by his own poisoned sword (Act 5)

Ophelia — Polonius's daughter · Hamlet's beloved

Role: Obeys her father and rejects Hamlet. Driven mad by Hamlet's cruelty and her father's death.

"There's rosemary, that's for remembrance."

Outcome: Drowns in a brook (reported by Gertrude, Act 4)

Friends & Spies *True vs false friends*

Horatio — Hamlet's loyal friend from Wittenberg

Role: Calm, rational and trustworthy, the one person Hamlet fully confides in.

"Good night, sweet prince, / And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!"

Outcome: Survives to tell the story

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern — Old school friends turned spies

Role: Summoned by Claudius to spy on Hamlet; escort him to England carrying a letter ordering his execution.

"Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! (Hamlet to them)"

Outcome: Executed in England (reported in Act 5)

Norway *The outside threat*

Fortinbras — Prince of Norway · Hamlet's foil

Role: His father was killed by old King Hamlet. A man of decisive action, the opposite of Hamlet.

"Let four captains / Bear Hamlet, like a soldier, to the stage."

Outcome: Survives: becomes King of Denmark

Players & Others *Small roles, big exam value*

The Players — Travelling actors (Player King, Player Queen, Lucianus)

Role: Perform *The Murder of Gonzago*, which Hamlet renames "**The Mousetrap**" and rewrites to copy his father's murder. Lucianus, "nephew to the king", pours the poison.

"The play's the thing / Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king. (Hamlet)"

The Gravediggers — Two "clowns" · comic relief

Role: Joke about death and Ophelia's suicide while digging her grave (Act 5, Scene 1). We learn Hamlet is **30 years old**.

"Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio. (Hamlet)"

Yorick — Dead court jester (appears only as a skull)

Role: Carried young Hamlet on his back. His skull makes Hamlet think about how death levels everyone, from jesters to Alexander the Great.

Memory Hook: 3 Sons, 3 Dead Fathers

Hamlet → **Thinks and delays**
Father: King Hamlet, killed by Claudius

Laertes → **Acts rashly, uses poison**
Father: Polonius, killed by Hamlet

Fortinbras → **Acts with honour, wins the crown**
Father: Old Fortinbras, killed by King Hamlet

Who Kills Whom: The Death Map

- King Hamlet** — by **Claudius**: poison in the ear · before the play
- Polonius** — by **Hamlet**: stabbed through the arras · Act 3, Sc 4
- Ophelia** — **Drowning**: accident or suicide? · Act 4, Sc 7
- Rosencrantz & Guildenstern** — by **Hamlet's forged letter**: executed in England · reported Act 5, Sc 2

Act-by-Act Summary

Act 1: The Ghost Speaks

- A ghost resembling the dead king appears on the battlements of Elsinore.

Act 2: Madness & Spies

- Ophelia reports Hamlet's strange visit; Polonius decides Hamlet is mad with love.

Act 3: The Turning Point

- "To be, or not to be" soliloquy, then the nunnery scene with Ophelia while Claudius and Polonius spy.

Act 4: Consequences

- Claudius sends Hamlet to England with R&G and a secret death order.

Act 5: The Final Duel

- Graveyard scene: gravediggers, Yorick's skull, Ophelia's funeral; Hamlet and Laertes fight in her grave.

Must-Know Exam Facts

FULL TITLE & DATE

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, written c. 1599–1601. First Quarto 1603 ("bad quarto"), Second Quarto 1604–05, First Folio 1623. Shakespeare's longest play.

SOURCES

The Amleth legend in Saxo Grammaticus's *Gesta Danorum*, retold by François de Belleforest in *Histoires Tragiques* (1570), and a lost earlier play, the *Ur-Hamlet*, often credited to Thomas Kyd.

GENRE

Revenge tragedy in the Senecan tradition (like Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy*), with a ghost, feigned madness, a play-within-a-play and a bloody ending.

THE 7 SOLILOQUIES

- "O, that this too too solid flesh would melt" (1.2)
- "O all you host of heaven!" (1.5)
- "O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I!" (2.2)
- "To be, or not to be" (3.1)
- "'Tis now the very witching time of night" (3.2)
- "Now might I do it pat" (3.3)
- "How all occasions do inform against me" (4.4)

SAMPLE CHAPTER • 1813

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen | 1813 | Hertfordshire & Derbyshire | Novel of Manners | 3 Volumes • 61 Chapters

The Character Mind Map

THE HEROINE

Elizabeth Bennet

The second of five Bennet daughters: lively, witty and quick to judge. She forms a strong prejudice against the proud Mr Darcy and believes the charming lies of Wickham. Darcy's letter forces her to see her mistakes, and she learns humility just as he learns to overcome his pride.

"Till this moment I never knew myself."

Ending: marries Mr Darcy

The Bennets *Longbourn, Hertfordshire*

Jane Bennet — The eldest sister

Role: Beautiful, gentle and always thinks the best of everyone. She loves Bingley.

Outcome: Marries Bingley

Mr Bennet — The ironic father

Role: Clever but lazy, he mocks his family rather than guiding them.

"For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbours, and laugh at them in our turn?"

Mrs Bennet — The anxious mother

Role: Foolish and loud; her one aim is to marry off her daughters, since the estate is **entailed** to Mr Collins.

Lydia Bennet — The youngest sister

Role: Wild and flirtatious, she elopes with Wickham, threatening the whole family's reputation.

Outcome: Marries Wickham

The Gentlemen *Wealth & rank*

Fitzwilliam Darcy — Master of Pemberley • £10,000 a year

Role: Proud and reserved. He insults Elizabeth at the first ball, but falls in love with her. He secretly saves Lydia by paying Wickham to marry her.

"She is tolerable; but not handsome enough to tempt me."

Outcome: Marries Elizabeth

Charles Bingley — Darcy's friend • tenant of Netherfield

Role: Rich, cheerful and easily led; persuaded by Darcy and his sisters to leave Jane.

Outcome: Marries Jane

George Wickham — A charming militia officer

Role: Lies to Elizabeth that Darcy cheated him; he once tried to elope with Darcy's young sister Georgiana.

Outcome: Marries Lydia

Others *Comic & snobbish*

Mr Collins — The pompous clergyman • heir to Longbourn

Role: Proposes to Elizabeth, is refused, and three days later gets Charlotte to accept him.

Outcome: Marries Charlotte Lucas

Charlotte Lucas — Elizabeth's practical friend

Role: Marries Collins for security, not love: "I am not romantic, you know."

Lady Catherine de Bourgh — Darcy's snobbish aunt

Role: Tries to bully Elizabeth into promising never to marry Darcy, which only brings them together.

Memory Hook: Pride, Prejudice, Correction

Pride: Darcy → **Learns humility**

Looks down on Elizabeth's family and manners

Prejudice: Elizabeth → **Learns self-knowledge**

Judges Darcy on first impressions and Wickham's lies

The Letter → **The turning point**

Darcy's letter after the first proposal reveals the truth

Proposals & Marriages

1. **Collins Elizabeth** — **refused**; he marries Charlotte instead, a **marriage of convenience**
2. **Darcy's first proposal (Hunsford)** — **refused** angrily by Elizabeth
3. **Darcy's second proposal** — **accepted**: a marriage of love and respect
4. **Jane & Bingley** — a match of **goodness and gentle affection**
5. **Lydia & Wickham** — a marriage of **passion and folly**, rescued by Darcy's money

Famous Lines: Who Says What

1. "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." — the narrator: the famous opening line
2. "She is tolerable; but not handsome enough to tempt me." — Darcy on Elizabeth at the Meryton ball
3. "I could easily forgive his pride, if he had not mortified mine." — Elizabeth
4. "In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed." — Darcy: first proposal
5. "Till this moment I never knew myself." — Elizabeth, after reading Darcy's letter

Quick Summary

Stage 1: First Impressions

- Bingley rents Netherfield; Jane and Bingley fall in love. Darcy snubs Elizabeth at the ball. Wickham wins her sympathy.

Stage 2: Proposals Refused

- Elizabeth refuses Mr Collins, who marries Charlotte. Bingley leaves suddenly. At Hunsford, Elizabeth refuses Darcy's proud proposal.

Stage 3: The Letter

- Darcy's letter explains his actions and exposes Wickham. Elizabeth realises how wrong she has been.

Stage 4: Pemberley & the Elopement

- Visiting Pemberley, Elizabeth finds Darcy changed. Lydia elopes with Wickham; Darcy secretly arranges their marriage.

Stage 5: Happy Endings

- Bingley returns to Jane. Lady Catherine's interference backfires, and Darcy proposes again and is accepted.

Must-Know Exam Facts

DATE & TITLE

Published in **1813** by Thomas Egerton. First written in 1796–1797 as *First Impressions*.

STYLE

Famous for its **irony**, witty dialogue and **free indirect discourse**. Austen herself called it "rather too light and bright and sparkling".

CRITICS SAY

Charlotte Brontë found Austen's world "a carefully fenced, highly cultivated garden", lacking passion.

AUSTEN'S NOVELS

Sense and Sensibility (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815); *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* (1817, posthumous).

SAMPLE CHAPTER • 1860-1861

Great Expectations

Charles Dickens | 1860-1861 | Kent Marshes & London | Bildungsroman | 3 Stages • 59 Chapters

The Character Mind Map

THE HERO & NARRATOR

Pip (Philip Pirrip)

An orphan raised "by hand" by his harsh sister and her gentle husband Joe, a blacksmith. Suddenly given "great expectations" of wealth by a secret benefactor, he becomes a snobbish gentleman in London and neglects Joe. When he learns who his benefactor really is, he loses his fortune but grows into a better man.

"My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip."

Ending: works abroad; meets Estella again at Satis House

Home & the Forge *The Kent marshes*

Joe Gargery — The blacksmith • Pip's brother-in-law

Role: Simple, loving and good; the true moral centre of the novel. He nurses Pip and pays his debts.

"Life is made of ever so many partings welded together."

Outcome: Marries Biddy

Mrs Joe — Pip's harsh elder sister

Role: Raises Pip "by hand" with a cane called Tickler.

Outcome: Dies after an attack by Orlick

Biddy — Pip's friend and teacher

Role: Kind and wise; she sees Pip's faults clearly.

Outcome: Marries Joe

Satis House *Miss Havisham's world*

Miss Havisham — The jilted bride

Role: Abandoned on her wedding day, she still wears her wedding dress and has **stopped all the clocks at twenty to nine**. She raises Estella to break men's hearts.

Outcome: Dies after her dress catches fire

Estella — Miss Havisham's adopted daughter

Role: Beautiful and cold; Pip loves her hopelessly. She marries the brutal Bentley Drummle and suffers, which softens her.

London & the Convict *The secret behind the fortune*

Abel Magwitch — The escaped convict • "Provis"

Role: Helped by young Pip on the marshes, he becomes rich in Australia and is Pip's **secret benefactor**. He returns to England illegally.

Outcome: Dies in prison before his execution

Mr Jaggers — The powerful lawyer

Role: Manages Pip's money and keeps everyone's secrets.

Herbert Pocket — Pip's best friend

Role: Cheerful and loyal; he calls Pip "Handel". Pip secretly helps him start in business.

Compeyson — The villain

Role: The man who jilted Miss Havisham and Magwitch's old criminal partner and enemy.

Outcome: Drowned in a struggle with Magwitch

Memory Hook: The 3 Stages of Pip's Expectations

First Stage → Innocence

Childhood on the marshes; the convict; Satis House

Second Stage → Pride & ingratitude

Wealth and snobbery in London

Third Stage → Humility & true values

Magwitch returns; Pip loses everything

The Big Revelations

1. **Pip's benefactor** — is **Magwitch**, not Miss Havisham as Pip believed
2. **Estella's parents** — are **Magwitch** and **Molly**, Jaggers's housekeeper
3. **Compeyson** — is both **Miss Havisham's faithless groom** and Magwitch's enemy
4. **Mrs Joe's attacker** — was **Orlick**, Joe's resentful journeyman

The Two Endings

1. **The original ending** — Pip and Estella meet briefly in London and **part for good**
2. **The published ending** — Changed on the advice of **Edward Bulwer-Lytton**: they meet in the ruins of Satis House, and Pip "saw no shadow of another parting from her"

Quick Summary

Stage 1: The Marshes

- Young Pip helps an escaped convict. He is sent to play at Satis House and falls for Estella.

Stage 2: Great Expectations

- Jaggers announces that Pip has a secret benefactor. Pip goes to London to become a gentleman and grows ashamed of Joe.

Stage 3: The Return

- Magwitch appears and reveals he is the benefactor. Pip is horrified, but slowly comes to care for him.

Stage 4: The Escape

- The attempt to smuggle Magwitch abroad fails; Compeyson drowns; Magwitch dies in prison, and his fortune goes to the Crown.

Stage 5: Home Again

- Pip falls ill and Joe nurses him. He works abroad for years, then meets the widowed Estella again at Satis House.

Must-Know Exam Facts

PUBLICATION

Serialised weekly in Dickens's *All the Year Round*, December 1860 – August 1861.

FORM

A **first-person bildungsroman** (coming-of-age novel), told by the older Pip looking back.

THE TWO ENDINGS

The original, sadder ending was changed after advice from **Bulwer-Lytton**.

SETTING

The Kent marshes, Rochester (the model for Satis House's town) and London.

FAMOUS IMAGES

Miss Havisham's stopped clocks and rotting wedding cake; Wemmick's little "castle" at Walworth with his deaf father, the "Aged P".

SAMPLE CHAPTER • 1925

Mrs Dalloway

Virginia Woolf | 1925 | London, one day in June 1923 | Modernist, Stream of Consciousness | 🕒 A Single Day

The Character Mind Map

THE HEROINE

Clarissa Dalloway

A society hostess in her fifties, wife of the Conservative MP Richard Dalloway. She spends one June day in London preparing for her evening **party**, buying flowers and remembering her youth at **Bourton**, when she turned down Peter Walsh and loved Sally Seton. Recovering from illness, she thinks about age and death. At her party she hears of a young man's suicide and feels strangely close to him.

"Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself."

Ending: "For there she was."

Clarissa's Past *Bourton memories*

Peter Walsh — Her old suitor, back from India

Role: Clarissa refused to marry him thirty years ago. Emotional and critical, he still loves her and calls on her the morning of the party. He always plays with his **pocket-knife**.

"It is Clarissa, he said. For there she was."

Sally Seton — Clarissa's wild girlhood friend

Role: Daring and free at Bourton. Her **kiss** was "the most exquisite moment" of Clarissa's life. Now Lady Rosseter, with five sons, she comes uninvited to the party.

Clarissa's Family *Westminster life*

Richard Dalloway — Her husband, a Conservative MP

Role: Kind and steady; he buys her roses and wants to say "I love you", but cannot. He gives her the independence she values.

Elizabeth Dalloway — Their 17-year-old daughter

Role: Quiet and beautiful; she escapes on a bus up the Strand, thinking of a career.

Doris Kilman — Elizabeth's history tutor

Role: Poor, bitter and religious. She and Clarissa **hate** each other.

Hugh Whitbread — An old friend, a courtier

Role: Polished and empty; Peter and Sally despise him.

The Double *War & madness*

Septimus Warren Smith — A shell-shocked war veteran

Role: A clerk and lover of Shakespeare who volunteered for the war. Since it ended he cannot feel; he hears birds sing in Greek and sees his dead friend. To escape his doctors he **jumps from a window**.

"I'll give it you!"

Lucrezia (Rezia) — Septimus's young Italian wife

Role: A hat-maker, lonely in London; she loves him and tries to help him.

Evans — Septimus's officer, killed in war

Role: Killed just before the Armistice; Septimus felt nothing at the time, and now sees him.

The Doctors *Power over the mind*

Sir William Bradshaw — A famous nerve specialist

Role: Worships "**Proportion**" and her sister "**Conversion**"; he plans to send Septimus to a home. At the party his wife mentions the suicide.

Dr Holmes — The family doctor

Role: Says nothing is wrong. His arrival makes Septimus jump.

Memory Hook: Clarissa & Septimus

Clarissa → Life

Sane, social, holding a party

Septimus → Death

Mad, alone, crushed by doctors

The link → "She felt very like him"

Clarissa hears of his death and understands it

Big Ben → Time

Its chimes mark the hours for both

Famous Lines

1. "Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself." — The opening line
2. "The leaden circles dissolved in the air." — Big Ben striking the hour
3. "Fear no more the heat o' the sun / Nor the furious winter's rages." — From Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*; it runs through Clarissa's mind
4. "She felt somehow very like him—the young man who had killed himself." — Clarissa at the party
5. "It is Clarissa, he said. For there she was." — The last lines, Peter Walsh

Quick Summary

Stage 1: Morning

- Clarissa walks through London to buy flowers.

Stage 2: Peter's Visit

- Peter Walsh calls unexpectedly; old feelings rise. He walks to Regent's Park and remembers Bourton.

Stage 3: Septimus

- At noon Sir William Bradshaw orders Septimus to a rest home.

Stage 4: The Death

- In the evening, when Dr Holmes arrives, Septimus throws himself from the window onto the railings.

Stage 5: The Party

- Clarissa's party; Sally reappears.

Must-Know Exam Facts

PUBLICATION

Published in **1925** by the Hogarth Press. Working title: "The Hours".

TECHNIQUE

Stream of consciousness and free indirect discourse. Woolf's "**tunnelling**" method: digging "beautiful caves" behind her characters, which connect in the present.

TIME

One day in **June 1923**. Big Ben marks clock time while memory moves freely: time on the clock versus time in the mind.

ORIGINS

Grew from Woolf's short story "Mrs Dalloway in Bond Street". The Dalloways first appear in *The Voyage Out*.

LATER WORKS

Michael Cunningham's novel *The Hours* (1998, Pulitzer Prize) retells it; film 2002.

END OF DEMO

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