

**WOMEN-WRITERS IN AMERICAN LITERATURA**

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**ABSTRACT:** Women writers have shaped the literary landscape, provided distinctive viewpoints, questioned social norms, and enhanced the cultural fabric of the country throughout the history of American literature. Women writers have made significant and enduring contributions to literature, from the early pioneers who defied expectations to the modern voices striking new ground.

**Keywords:** The famous women-writers, eighty and early ninety century masterpieces, Bloomsbury group, To the Lighthouse.

**INTRODUCTION**

Some of the most famous women in history have been among the most important women in the history of literature. There were authors of certain works, poets and essayists; they broke down barriers in society, questioned the status quo and challenged the laws through their creative work. Their literary works enhanced the cultural environment and initiated important debates about gender, identity, and social conventions. Women have changed the landscape of literature, world cultures and history for a long time with their amazing creative writing skills. Examples include the pioneering voices of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and contemporary feminist unique women in the literary field.

**The life and work of Jane Austen and her works.**

Jane Austen was born in Steventon, Hampshire, on 16 December 1775 in a harsh winter. Her father wrote of her arrival in a letter that her mother "certainly expected to have been brought to bed a month ago". He added that the newborn infant was "a present plaything for Cassy and a future companion. George Austen, his father, served as a rector. Her family consisted of eight to six sons and two daughters, with her being the second daughter and the seventh child. Cassandra, her elder sister, was by far her closest friend throughout her life; neither Jane nor Cassandra were wed. Their father was a scholar who gave his kids a passion for education. Cassandra, née Leigh, his brilliant wife, was well-known for her flawless storytelling and poetry. Acting was a popular family hobby. Thus, many of Austen's works were published anonymous, meaning he was not very famous during his lifetime. Posthumously, he gained even more respect as a writer, with his six full-length novels rarely published. In addition, several of his works have been adapted into films, accompanied by a number of critical articles and anthologies. She published four novels during her lifetime: "Sense and Sensibility "(1811), "Pride and Prejudice "(1813)," Mansfield Park" (1814), and "Emma" (1815).

Sense and Sensibility(1811)-First published anonymously by “A Lady”,it tells the story of the Dashwood sisters,Elinor and Marianne as they come of age and are forced to move with their widowed mother from the estate on which they grew up.

Pride and Prejudice (1813)-This novel following the character Elizabeth Bennet, who studies about the negative result of rash resolution -making and the contrast between superficial righteousness and actual goodness.

Emma (1815) - A comedy of manners, describing the concerns of genteel women living in Georgian-Regency England, focusing on issues of marriage, age and social status.

Mansfield Park(1814)- The story follows the adolescent,unlucky protagonist Fanny Price who at age ten is sent to live with her rich aunt and uncle Bertram at their grand estate of Mansfield Park.

Jane Austen died June 18 ,1817 Winchester,Great Britain.Still,the works of this sensitive writer attract their readers.

### **Virginia Woolf and “To the Lighthouse”.**

Virginia Woolf was born January 25, 1882, London, England.And she died March 28, 1941, near Rodmell, Sussex. English writer whose novels, through their nonlinear approaches to narrative, exerted a major influence on the genre. Adeline Virginia Woolf was an early 20th-century writer from England. Considered to be one of the most modernist authors of her period, Woolf not only challenged the social injustices on women in the early 1900s, but also tested and inculcated contrasting literary devices into our contemporary lexicon of inventive writing.Encouraged by her father, Woolf began writing professionally in 1900,finally moving to the more nonconformist Bloomsbury area of London, where she was part of the formation of the prominent Bloomsbury Group.

\*Bloomsbury is a district in the West End of London, part of the London Borough of Camden in England. It is considered a fashionable residential area, and is the location of numerous cultural, intellectual, and educational institutions. Bloomsbury is home of the British Museum, the largest museum in the United Kingdom, and several educational institutions, including University College London and a number of other colleges and institutes of the University of London as well as its central headquarters, the New College of the Humanities, the University of Law, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the British Medical Association and many others. Bloomsbury is an intellectual and literary hub for London, as home of world-known Bloomsbury Publishing, publishers of the Harry Potter series, and namesake of the Bloomsbury Group, a group of British intellectuals which included author Virginia Woolf, biographer Lytton Strachey, and economist John Maynard Keynes.

Mrs Dalloway (1925) - Fictional high-societal Clarissa Dalloway living in post-First World War England shares the details of a day in her life.

To the Lighthouse (1927) - A philosophical introspection novel which centres on the Ramsay family and their visits to the Isle of Skye in Scotland between 1910 and 1920.

A Room of One's Own (1929) - An extended essay, based on two lectures Woolf delivered in October 1928 at Newnham College and Girton College (both constituent colleges at the University of Cambridge) about social injustices against women.

**To the Lighthouse's brief review and information about this novel.**

To the Lighthouse is divided into three sections: "The Window," "Time Passes," and "The Lighthouse." Each section is fragmented into stream-of-consciousness contributions from various narrators. This novel was written by Virginia Woolf, it was published in May 5, 1927. It was written in the genre of modernism and published in the United Kingdom. Following and extending the tradition of modernist novelists like Marcel Proust and James Joyce, the plot of To the Lighthouse is secondary to its philosophical introspection. Cited as a key example of the literary technique of multiple focalization, the novel includes little dialogue and almost no direct action; most of it is written as thoughts and observations. To the Lighthouse is made up of three powerfully charged visions into the life of the Ramsay family, living in a summer house off the rocky coast of Scotland. There's maternal Mrs. Ramsay, the highbrow Mr. Ramsay, their eight children, and assorted holiday guests. From Mr. Ramsay's seemingly trivial postponement of a visit to a nearby lighthouse, Virginia Woolf examines tensions and allegiances and shows that the small joys and quiet tragedies of everyday life could go on forever. The novel recalls childhood emotions and highlights adult relationships. Among the book's many tropes and themes are those of loss, subjectivity, the nature of art and the problem of perception. In 1998, the Modern Library named To the Lighthouse No. 15 on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. In 2005, the novel was chosen by TIME magazine as one of the one hundred best English-language novels since 1923.

**Part I: The Window.**

The novel is set in the Ramsays' summer home in the Hebrides, on the Isle of Skye. The section begins with Mrs. Ramsay assuring her son James that they should be able to visit the lighthouse on the next day. This prediction is denied by Mr. Ramsay, who voices his certainty that the weather will not be clear. This opinion forces a certain tension between Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay, and also between Mr. Ramsay and James. This particular incident is referred to on various occasions throughout the section, especially in the context of Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay's relationship. The Ramsays and their eight children are joined at the house by a number of friends and colleagues. One of these friends, Lily Briscoe, begins the novel as a young, uncertain painter attempting a portrait of Mrs. Ramsay and James. Briscoe finds herself plagued by doubts throughout the novel, doubts largely fed by the claims of Charles Tansley, another guest, who asserts that women can neither paint nor write. Tansley himself is an admirer of Mr. Ramsay, a philosophy professor, and Ramsay's academic treatises. The section closes with a large dinner party. When Augustus Carmichael, a visiting poet, asks for a second serving of soup, Mr. Ramsay nearly snaps at him. Mrs. Ramsay is herself out of sorts when Paul Rayley and Minta Doyle, two acquaintances whom she has brought together in engagement, arrive late to dinner, as Minta has lost her grandmother's brooch on the beach.

**Part II: Time Passes.**

The second section, "Time passes", gives a sense of time passing, absence, and death. Ten years pass, during which the First World War begins and ends. Mrs. Ramsay dies, as do two of her children Prue dies from complications of childbirth, and Andrew is killed in the war. Mr. Ramsay is left adrift without his wife to praise and comfort him during his bouts of fear and anguish regarding the longevity of his philosophical work. This section is told from an omniscient point of view and occasionally from Mrs. McNab's point of view. Mrs.

McNab worked in the Ramsay's house since the beginning, and thus provides a clear view of how things have changed in the time the summer house has been unoccupied.

Part III: The Lighthouse.

In the final section, "The Lighthouse", some of the remaining Ramsays and other guests return to their summer home ten years after the events of Part I. Mr. Ramsay finally plans on taking the long- delayed trip to the lighthouse with daughter Cam(illa) and son James (the remaining Ramsay children are virtually unmentioned in the final section). The trip almost does not happen, as the children are not ready, but they eventually set off. As they travel, the children are silent in protest at their father for forcing them to come along. However, James keeps the sailing boat steady and rather than receiving the harsh words he has come to expect from his father, he hears praise, providing a rare moment of empathy between father and son; Cam's attitude towards her father changes also, from resentment to eventual admiration. They are accompanied by the sailor Macalister and his son, who catches fish during the trip. The son cuts a piece of flesh from a fish he has caught to use for bait, throwing the injured fish back into the sea. While they set sail for the lighthouse, Lily attempts to finally complete the painting she has held in her mind since the start of the novel. She reconsiders her memory of Mrs. and Mr. Ramsay, balancing the multitude of impressions from ten years ago in an effort to reach towards an objective truth about Mrs. Ramsay and life itself. Upon finishing the painting (just as the sailing party reaches the lighthouse) and seeing that it satisfies her, she realises that the execution of her vision is more important to her than the idea of leaving some sort of legacy in her work.

## **CONCLUSION**

Women writers have made indelible contributions to American literature, enriching the literary canon and expanding our understanding of the human experience. From the early pioneers who defied societal constraints to contemporary voices breaking new ground, their works continue to inspire, challenge, and provoke readers around the world. As we celebrate their achievements, we recognize the importance of amplifying diverse voices and ensuring that women's stories are heard and valued in the ongoing narrative of American literature.

## **INTERNET RESOURCE**

1. <https://g.co/kgs/UHT26aK>
2. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/To\\_the\\_Lighthouse](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_the_Lighthouse)
3. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Virginia-Woolf>
4. <https://oxfordsummercourses.com/articles/famous-female-writers-in-history/>
5. <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/lighthouse/summary/>