The Mark on the Wall

Virginia Woolf

English B2.1
Tuesday - Thursday 8:00 to 10:00
Iván Illera Gómez
The Mark on the Wall

Virginia Woolf
• 25 January 1882 – 28 March 1941.
• English writer.
• Foremost modernists of the twentieth century.
• Significant figure in London literary society.
• Some novels and lots of shorts stories.
• Lots of famous novels:
  - Mrs Dalloway
  - To the Lighthouse
  - Orlando
  - A Room of One’s Own
• Virginia suffered a bipolar disorder.
• She committed suicide by drowning in 1941.
The Mark on the Wall

The mark on the wall (kind of narrative)

• One of the first stories in which Virginia Woolf uses the technique of stream of consciousness.

• One of the most important contributions of Modernism to the narrative.

• The "stream of consciousness" is the interior monologue of ideas as they appear in the mind, breaking the logical sense and linearity of the traditional monologue.

• In this story, a simple element as a mark on the wall leads the narrator to a deep reflection on life and stimulates the reader's imagination.
The Mark on the Wall

The mark on the wall (expressions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asunder</th>
<th>Steady</th>
<th>As for that mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canisters</td>
<td>Straw</td>
<td>I dare say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheeks</td>
<td>Swarm</td>
<td>Illegitimate freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheeks</td>
<td>Tail</td>
<td>Forest depths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson</td>
<td>Toes</td>
<td>Vigilant housekeeper!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwindle</td>
<td>Turnips</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Haphazard</td>
<td>Upheaval</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoops</td>
<td>Waste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mantelpiece</td>
<td>Water-lilies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nail</td>
<td>Windowpanes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring</td>
<td>Worshipping</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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The mark on the wall (paragraph)

The beginning of the book....

“Perhaps it was the middle of January in the present year that I first looked up and saw the mark on the wall. In order to fix a date it is necessary to remember what one saw. So now I think of the fire; the steady film of yellow light upon the page of my book; the three chrysanthemums in the round glass bowl on the mantelpiece. Yes, it must have been the winter time, and we had just finished our tea, for I remember that I was smoking a cigarette when I looked up and saw the mark on the wall for the first time”
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