Grammar and Style

CRAFT EFFECTIVE SENTENCES

In this story, Woolf imitates the flow of thoughts by using long sentences made up of several phrases and clauses. Instead of smooth transitions, she links seemingly unrelated phrases with commas and semicolons. The layering of details in Woolf's sentences helps to evoke the random movements of Oliver's mind.

Directions: Using the example as a model, write your own paragraph in the style of Woolf. Be sure your paragraph includes examples of Woolf's distinctive sentence structure.

And he dressed better and better; and had, first a hansom cab; then a car; and first he went up to the dress circle, then down into the stalls. And he had a villa at Richmond, overlooking the river, with trellises of red roses; and Mademoiselle used to pick one every morning and stick it in his buttonhole. (lines 36–39)

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