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Vision in Virginia Woolfe's To the Lighthouse

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Vision in Virginia Woolf's novel *To The Lighthouse*

Sydney Werner

BACKGROUND: In their article, "The Eye, The Mind & the Spirit: Why 'the Look of Things' Held a 'Great Power' Over Virginia Woolf," author Michael R. Schrimper creates an argument surrounding the idea of Virginia Woolf being "fixated on vision." Schrimper bifurcates "vision" between two poles: "the actual act of seeing," and "the concentrated observation of objects and surroundings" (33). I was greatly interested in this analysis and decided to argue against it, stating that vision and perception are one in the same.

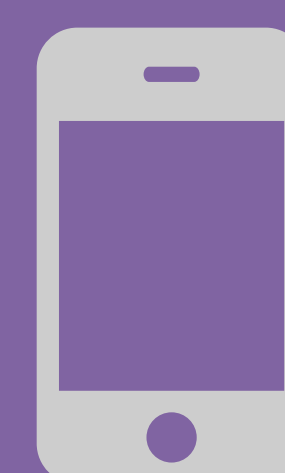
METHODS

1. Posed a question generated from reading Virginia Woolf's novel *To the Lighthouse*
2. Researched historical and contemporary scholarly dialogue concerning issues of space, time, and consciousness in VW's novels. Search terms included: temporality, time, vision, perspective, etc.
3. Bolstered and honed initial research question in light of the investigated scholarship (biological vision, and vision as individual perspective).
4. Applied research in two documents: an annotated bibliography of several researched and analyzed sources, and a humanities conference proposal intended for panel offerings relevant to the researched topic.

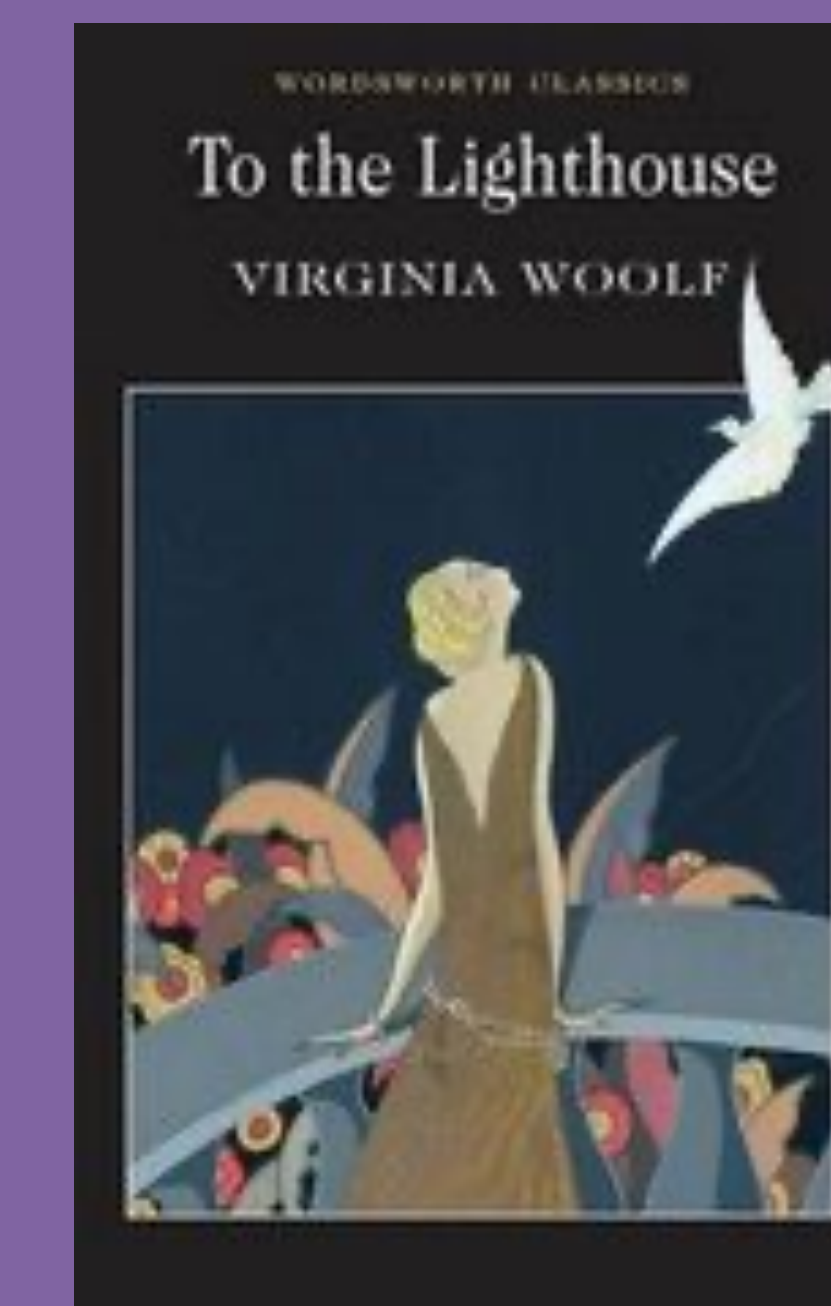
Focus of analysis: Is there a distinction between biological vision and perception? How does Woolf address this in her novel?



“Vision held a great power of me” - Virginia Woolf



Take a picture to download the full paper written by Michael Schrimper on Vision



RESULTS

- Following close analysis of the text for several months alongside reading published journals, I concluded that Woolf does not distinguish the two. Rather, she subtly creates the argument that they are one in the same.

Following my research experience, my mentor and I worked to create an abstract to submit to conferences. That proposal can be found here:



REFERENCES

1. Schrimper, Michael R. "The Eye, the Mind and the Spirit: Why 'The Look of Things' Held A 'Great Power' Over Virginia Woolf." *JSTOR*, vol. 42, no. 1, 2018, pp. 32–48. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/jmodelite.42.1.03.
2. Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse*. 1st Harvest Ed., San Diego, Harvest Books, 1989.