COMPREHENSION

2. The text is composed by 5 section:

* (Vv1-25) description of Mulberry’s the florists, the Mrs. Dalloway’s feelings in that place, the Miss Pym’s thoughts
* (Vv26-34)The shot
* (Vv35- 44)the rumors
* (Vv45 –62)Septimus
* (Vv63-86)Lucrezia

3. The setting. The reader understands thanks to the verse 15“as if it were the evening” and the verse 17 “it was the moment between six and seven”. In addition , the place where the extract is setting is the Mulberry’s the florists and the street where it is collocated.

4.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FLOWERS | THEIR COLOURS |
| Delphiniums | blue |
| Peas | pink |
| Lilacs | violet |
| Carnations | red |
| Roses | red |
| Irises | violet |

5. The characters’ attention is focused on the car has been already crashed violently. Because of it Mrs. Dlloway jumps, Miss Pym goes to the window to see better the scene.

6. Nobody knows who is the people in the car. Interesting is it to notice all people think there is in the car an important person: Prince of Wales, the Queen, the Prime Minister. Maybe they think it because the car is an elegant one: the dove-grey upholstery(v.12)and the colour dove grey.

7.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | SEPTIMUS | HIS WIFE |
| AGE | 30 | 24 |
| NATIONALITY | British | Italian |
| APPEARANCE | “Pale-faced, beak-nosed, wearing shoes and a shabby overcoat, with hazel eyes”(vv.46-49) | “Little woman, with large eyes in a sallow pointed face”(vv.63.64) |
| ATTITUDE | Apprensive , person who thinks always he is guilty, who has not balance, aloof | She creates distance between her and other english people, she is completely subdue to her husband |

9. Piece by piece, through association.

10. Virginia Woolf uses the omniscient narrator. The aim is to maintain a sort of logical and grammatical organization.

11.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| She advanced |  | She snuffed in |  | She began to go from jar to jar |  | Stimulate, a pistol |  | People stop and observe the scene |  |
|  | Miss Pym’s thoughts |  | Clarissa’s thoughts |  | Clarissa’s thoughts |  | Connotation of what is happened |  | People make suppositions |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semptimus hears Edgar J.Watkiss |  | Dialogue between Semptimus and his wife |  |
|  | Semptimus’s thoughts |  | His wife’s thoughts |

12. aspects of Clarissa’s personality:

* Curiousity
* Profound capacity for the emotion
* Kindness
* composed
* balanced between internal and external reality

13.

* Alienation “all right! Angrily, as if she had interrupted him”(vv.70), “Septimus reads a paper instead of talking”(v.78)
* Panic “the throb of the motor engines sounded like a pulse irregularly drumming through an entire body”(vv.50)
* Feelings of guilty : “it is I who am blocking the way”(vv.58)
* Terror and anger:” as if some horror had come almost to the surface and was about to burst into flames” (vv. 57)
* Madness “I will kill myself”(v.74)

14.

* “Whose hands were always bright red”(v.4)
* “There were flowers[..]” (v.6)

sight

* “With her eyes half closed” ( v. 11)
* Opening her eyes(v.12)
* “This beauty this scent, this colour”(v.22)
* Going to the window to look(v.29)
* Just time to see (v.32)
* Pale-faced, beak-nosed, wearing shoes and a shabby overcoat, with hazel eyes”(vv.46-49)

sight

* “Little woman, with large eyes in a sallow pointed face”(vv.63.64)
* Red parasol (v.53)
* Semptimus looked(v.56)
* “Fresh, like frilled linen clean from a laundry”(v.13)

smell

* Smell (v.8)
* Pushing(v.1)

touch

* Softly (v.19)
* A pistol shot in the street(v.25)

hearing

* Rumors(v.35)
* Said audibily(v.43)
* Heard him( v.45)
* Sounded like (v.50)

The sight.

The extract belongs to the first part of Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway.

Right from the title the reader can understand who are the protagonists of the extract : Clarissa(Dalloway, the protagonist of the book) and Septimus. The reader knows Dalloway but he wants to identify Septimus and understand why is he important for the story.

The extract can be divided into five sections

The extract starts with the description of the Mulberry’s the florists. The narrator is able to create the image of a peaceful place rich of colours. Indeed the colour of the florists is violet (lilacs and irises), red(roses and carnation) blue( delphiniums) and pink( peas). So the florists seems to be a place of happiness, where the bad thoughts are banished.

The idyllic shelter is stopped because of the shot. Moreover,the characters’ attention is focused on the car has been already crashed violently. Because of it Mrs. Dlloway jumps, Miss Pym goes to the window to see better the scene. Indeed a crown sopped and stared there. Interesting is it to notice that nobody knows who is the people in the car. In addition, all people think there is in the car an important person: Prince of Wales, the Queen, the Prime Minister. Maybe they think it because the car is an elegant one: the dove-grey upholstery(v.12)and the colour dove grey.

Clarissa Dalloway who is also the main character of the book(Mrs. Dalloway), starts the extract. So her role is immediately highlighted. The main aspects of Clarissa’s personality are: curiousity, profound capacity for the emotion, Kindness , she is composed, balanced between internal and external reality

The narrator decides to underline also the differences between mrs. Dalloway, who belongs to the aristocratic class, and the other people, who belongs to the middle one, like miss pym, or the crown.

The second person of the title, Semptimus is introduced in the verse 45. He is connoted as a person who is alienated ( “all right! Angrily, as if she had interrupted him”(vv.70), “Septimus reads a paper instead of talking”(v.78)), who is always in panic (“the throb of the motor engines sounded like a pulse irregularly drumming through an entire body”(vv.50)),always terror and anger (” as if some horror had come almost to the surface and was about to burst into flames” (vv. 57)), with feelings of guilty (“it is I who am blocking the way”(vv.58))

Moreover the character is also described as a madness person. Indeed he wants kill himself( “I will kill myself”(v.74) ). So the reader may ask himself why he wants kill himself.

The technique used by Woolf is the association of piece and piece of events. The only logical and grammatical organization is followed by the narrator. He is able to give unity and order to the story. For these reasons, the narrator is an omniscient narrator.

Another interesting element to notice is the recalling of every sense. In deed, the narrator to convey a particular image recalls the sense: Softly (v.19)(touch) , A pistol shot in the street(v.25)(hearing), “Fresh, like frilled linen clean from a laundry(smell), “ This beauty this scent, this colour”(v.22)(sight). Therefore the sense there is main used is sight. So the narrator wants to create a lot of images juxtaposing thanks to the association.