INTRODUCTION: VIRGINIA WOOLF

English writer (1882-1941)

Leading Modernist

- Human nature underwent a fundamental change “on or about December 1910”
- Unreliable narrators, irrationality
- Stream of consciousness, interior monologue, multiple points of view
- Greater psychological realism, less focus on mainstream values and culture

Best known for

- To the Lighthouse
- Mrs. Dalloway
- Orlando: A Biography
- A Room of One’s Own
INTRODUCTION: A ROOM OF ONE’S OWN

Extended Essay

Based on series of lectures at Newnham and Girton Colleges (two women’s colleges at Cambridge)

Feminist text

Central Argument: “A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction”
SHAKESPEARE’S SISTER: RHETORIC

Logos: Appeals to reason (use of logic to convince reader)

Pathos: Appeals to emotion

Ethos: Appeals to ethics, credibility, based on character of the speaker.
Irony
- Use an incongruity as a source of humour.

Metaphor
- Convey a new idea or meaning by linking it to an existing idea or meaning.

Rhetorical Question
- Question used to make a point, rather than get an answer
SHAKESPEARE’S SISTER: SOUND DEVICES

Alliteration
- Stream of words with the same initial sound
- Used for emphasis. Can be humorous or threatening.

Assonance
- Repetition of similar vowel sounds.
- Used to emphasize intensity, mood, imagery

Cacophony
- Use of words with harsh consonants
- Used to emphasize harsh or negative situations

Onomatopoeia
- Use of words to emulate a sound
- Used to tap into the reader’s sense of sound
SHAKESPEARE’S SISTER: SHIFTING THE MEANING OF WORDS

Metaphor
- Comparison of two objects or ideas without using “like” or “as”

Simile
- Gentler metaphor. Comparison of two unlike things using “like” or “as”

Purpose: To shift the meaning of words
SHAKESPEARE’S SISTER: DISCUSSION

How does Woolf use rhetoric to convey her point of view?

Identify 2 key themes in the text. How are these themes developed?
How do central ideas from *Shakespeare’s Sister* relate to the character of Lady Macbeth?