

## PSYCHOLOGY AND LITERATURE

In this course, we have used psychological theories to help us understand characters from novels. For this version, we will pay special attention to mothers, most often from the point of view of their children and other members of the family. (Why is it so hard to find a novel written from the mother's perspective?) In almost all personality theories, the role of the mother has been central in providing the shape and the resources for the earliest stages of development. And that impact often lasts a lifetime. Too much to put on one person? And how does culture (and time period) affect the mother and the process of mothering? These are the kinds of questions we will be thinking about as we read and talk together.

As is customary, the heart of this course will be the conversation that we have...my voice and yours are required to make it all work. I know that this is a lot of reading for some --I hope you enjoy it!

9/9     Virginia Woolf, To the Lighthouse (1989)

9/16    Anna Quinlan, After Annie (2025)

10/1    Amy Tan, The Joy Luck Club (2019)

10/8    TBA