

Student's Name

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### Analysis of Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay

Virginia Woolf's novel *To the Lighthouse* (1915) depicts the progression of several characters, the most **important and interesting** being Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay. Mr. Ramsay is a philosopher who judges himself based on his work. His character is very abrasive and, at times, exhibits uncalled for bouts of rudeness. He is constantly seeking reassurance from his wife and other female characters, such as Lily. His ego needs to be stroked frequently to make himself feel good about his work and his life. His wife's character is quite different. She does not depend on her perceived intelligence, but rather on her intuition. She is constantly setting couples up and is only happy with herself when she manages to create social harmony, whether it is between just two people or a group gathered for dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay are **complete opposites of each other** when it comes to their personalities and their outlooks on life.

Mr. Ramsay is a man who has made invaluable contributions to his field as an accomplished metaphysician. Despite these achievements, he maintains a very bleak outlook on life and has a rude and selfish demeanor. Woolf describes Mr. Ramsay as "Lean as a knife, narrow as the blade of one" (Woolf 4). During his wife's dinner party, Mr. Ramsay acts very rudely to his guests, creating an uncomfortable mood. He acts this way because of **the stress he endures in with** his work and his fame. Mr. Ramsay expects the women at the table, especially Lily and Mrs. Ramsay, to give him positive affirmation.