

---

---

# Themes: Escapism

— Between The Acts —

---

---

# Escapism

The characters attempt to live in an ignorant bliss as they continue life “as normal” as though there wasn’t a threat of a World War happening over their heads. They choose to escape from this reality by indulging in theatre and routine.

## In the text...

“ Mr. Streatfield paused. He listened. Did he hear some distant music? He continued: ‘But there is still a deficit’ (he consulted his paper) ‘of one hundred and seventy-five pounds odd. So that each of us who has enjoyed this pageant has still an opp . . .’

The word was cut in two. A zoom severed it. Twelve aeroplanes in perfect formation like a flight of wild duck came overhead. That was the music. The audience gaped; the audience gazed. Then zoom became drone. The planes had passed.

‘ . . . portunity,’ Mr. Streatfield continued ”

(Woolf, Virginia. *Between the Acts*, p. 153. Ale.Mar.. Kindle Edition).

## Close reading analysis:

Mr. Streatfield is asking the attendees to contribute to the donation trays being passed around. The audience members have just enjoyed their annual theatre outing, and they might feel inclined to donate; however, life isn't the same as it was a year ago. They may have been sitting in the same seats, in the same garden, watching the same haphazard performance -- yet there are now planes overhead. No one decides to give mind to this; Streatfield continues with the word he was cut-off from saying by the aeroplanes. However, they even refuse to mention the aeroplanes for what they are -- they address it as "music".