

Neville is one of the main characters of Virginia Woolf's "The Waves" as he is a complicated character that is attracted to beauty and shuns himself from the ugliness of the world. This appreciation of beauty stemmed from his deceased friend, Perciville, as he was everything that Neville was but better. While Neville was physically weak, overly refined, somewhat promiscuous, and obsessed with beauty; Perciville was athletic, charismatic, and very grounded in reality. For a character such as Neville, he wasn't only focused on beauty but his flow of thoughts show he is quick to notice the chaotic mess of the world as he is the first to notice any imperfection present on his friends or surroundings whether it be an untucked shirt or litter on the ground. This idealization of beauty fueled Neville's artistic ambitions as it made him want to be a poet and have his life centered on the attainable perfection that is in art as opposed to the chaotic mess that is in life. When Perciville died, Neville drastically changed as his source of enjoyment and reason to write for his poetry was gone. Neville tried to combat this lack of purpose by gathering a group of beautiful lovers to replace Perciville but it wasn't enough. Due to this lack of beauty and being overwhelmed by the ugly reality of this world, led to his disassociation. Through this disassociation, Neville struggles to come in terms with the "ugly" external world compared to his "beautiful" internal reality. As Neville struggles with his multifaceted mind, he becomes acutely aware of the dissonance between his true self and the persona he presents to the world. Neville's interactions with this persona show that he is often isolated and detached from others leading him to have no meaningful connection before or after Perciville died. This struggle to form meaningful connections showcases the impact of disassociation.