

Percival is a side character in Virginia Woolf's "The Waves" and he is a beautiful, athletic, charismatic, student and friend to the main characters. Percival is seen as an idol to the main characters as his actions and presence in the story affect Bernard, Louis, Susan, Rhoda, Jinny, and Neville to a massive degree. Despite being in the story physically for so little, Percival is often in the heads of many of the main characters either due to love, admiration, or faith. Without Percival, all the main character's thoughts and emotions become disconnected. Percival, through his interactions with the main characters, serves as a catalyst for introspection and self-discovery. Percival's presence, or lack thereof, prompts the main characters to question their own identities and the nature of their relationships. The disassociation experienced by the main characters is not merely a result of Percival's physical absence but is deeply intertwined with the existential crisis that he represents, which is death. Death took Percival and showed the main characters how small their lives are and how insignificant their existence is. Percival's death further accentuates the disassociative theme, as the characters grapple with the loss of someone who was both a part of and separate from their lives. Through this event, Bernard, Louis, Susan, Rhoda, Jinny, and Neville go through a unique experience, showcasing the challenges of forging meaningful connections in a world marked by constant change and uncertainty. Bernard, for example, channels his grief into introspective writing, using Percival's memory as a lens through which to examine his own identity. Neville, on the other hand, experiences a deep sense of loss that shapes her understanding of love and companionship. The group's shared memories of Percival become a touchstone for their interconnectedness, emphasizing the intricate web of relationships that define their lives. In conclusion, the echoes of Percival's impact go beyond that of his physical presence as he embodies the theme of disassociation that permeates the book and characters.