

Rhoda is one of the main characters of Virginia Woolf's "The Waves" and she is a very introverted character who is always dissociating from reality and escaping to the world inside her head. Rhoda is one of the characters most compared to the author, Virginia Woolf, as a reflection of herself embodying similarities that delve into the shared themes of isolation, introspection, and the complexities of identity. This want to be isolated from others comes from Rhoda's fear of human contact, leading her to be scared of being criticized and judged. However, despite this fear, Rhoda is drawn to Louis as despite hiding behind a persona, is very lonely and shares the same struggles with her. Through this Rhoda and Louis do become lovers for a time during the story however due to their inability to form a lasting connection with one another and their internal conflicts, they break up. This leaves Rhoda with her fragmented selfhood and her idea to isolate herself due to social expectations. These dissociations demonstrate how Rhoda struggles to live in the external world with all its disruptions and wishes to live in her internal reality permanently. However, Rhoda finds some measure of consolation in music, as she finds solace in its perfect structure harmonizes perfectly with Rhoda and her imagination. Nevertheless, despite being shown love through Louis and harmony through music, Rhoda still drifts through life without affecting others. Rhoda's deep sense of alienation from others eventually turns into a desire to abandon consciousness altogether, rather than risk losing her perfect solitude in her internal world through human contact with others. Through Rhoda's dissociation, she further loses herself while others in her situation find themselves through this soul journey. Rhoda's story sadly ends with her not wanting to continue the struggle with self-reflection, distraction, or existence in her moments of dissociation and commits suicide. In conclusion, Rhoda through this story demonstrates the difficulty with dissociation as well as showcases how important connections are as with enough time, Rhoda could have been saved.