



NARRATIVE:

Read the following story:

- [“The Mark on the Wall”](#) by Virginia Woolf

After reading it, reflect on these questions yourself, or discuss them with someone who might be interested in listening to your thoughts / reading the story with you!

Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. Evaluating a story, just like evaluating any other type of art, is subjective, so your answers to these questions will definitely vary. The important thing to remember is that you’re answering these questions critically – referencing the stories you read, not simply making up answers. If you want to be a better writer, you’ve got to learn to read like one!

1. How was did the narrator’s thoughts travel back and forth from the mark on the wall to their personal life?
2. Were there any points in the narration that took you to the past or future? How could you tell – were there signal words, a shift in the tone, etc.?
3. “The Mark on the Wall” spreads the story through large chunks of text. At some point, did they feel like info dumps to you – if so, were they compelling enough to keep you reading? Disliking a story is actually a good sign; it shows that you’re attuned to your own preferences and further shaping your reading tastes!
4. Was it easy to follow the narrator’s trail of thought? What techniques or terms did the narrator reference to make it easy, or alternatively, difficult?

To summarize:

Narrative is the account of events, experiences, and details that are brought up during a story. It allows readers to delve into the story more deeply, making them feel as if they are participants. Writers use narrative to manipulate the way a story is told. Working with description and dialogue, narrative helps make a story easy to follow – or intentionally confusing, in the case of mysteries and thrillers.