

RMST202

Week 2 (January 17, 2024): Proust I

What *happens* in “Combray”? What events (if any) does it narrate?

What *is* an event? What counts as something happening? (Rather than a description of places, things, people...)

Breakout Room 1

Names: Samantha Burton, Katie Wong, Fiona Zeng, Ren Koyama

- What happens is M. Swann comes for dinner and his mother does not kiss him goodnight, he is rebellious and sends a note downstairs, she comes upstairs and is surprised that his father allowed him to
- He would visit and have tea with his aunt, where he had tea with a madeline which brought back memories
- In this story, events and plot points are very mundane and routine
- So plot points are less interesting, exciting, and thrilling

Breakout Room 2

Names: Arella Ng, Vibha Jayaprakash, Isabella Sousa, Cici Zheng

1. Marcel reminisces a lot about his time in Combray
 - a. M. Swann visits him
 - b. He loses his mind because his mom wouldn't give him a good night's kiss
 - i. Insomnia (he initially couldn't go to sleep without the aforementioned action)
 - c. Family dynamics are narrated
 - d. Madeleine scenes
 - e. Fascination with reading, interiors of churches, etc.
 2. The purpose of an event is to move the plot forward / anything that helps move the reader forward
 - a. Anything related to the senses
 - b. Anything that gives the reader new information
 - c. Any form of interaction between characters that can be deemed useful to the plot
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Breakout Room 3

Names: Esther Zhou, Maya Berrached, Giaan Deol

What *happens* in “Combray”? What events (if any) does it narrate?

- The narrator is unable to sleep, wanting his mother’s kiss/affection, his memory of Combray about M. Swann, and a story about his aunt's feeling of her husband death.

What *is* an event?

- Literally anything or incidents in one’s life
- What moves a person forward on their life
- Seeing beauty in the mundane/everyday life

What counts as something happening? (Rather than a description of places, things, people...)

- Everyday life as an event/something happening?
 - Proust’s core childhood memories as simple things
 - What allows readers to understand more about text
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Breakout Room 4

Names: Mehkai Manzano, Ryan Tsang, Sofia Almerling, Fiona Weng

Events:

- Visit from M. Swann
- Staying up late for his mom to give him a goodnight kiss, when he finally gets to sleep with his mom, his mind changes
- When his friend puts him onto Bergotte and he becomes his idol

What does it narrate:

- Can’t sleep, narrates the past
- Proust’s memories as a child from the retrospect of his grown mind

What’s an event:

- Something that happens that you gain experience from it
 - Any moment that is strong enough to provoke a response or break a routine
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Breakout Room 5

Names: Jerry Wang, Jivan Cheema, Jennifer Li, Ximena Avendano

What *happens* in “Combray”? What events (if any) does it narrate?

- He talks about drifting off in sleep
- His childhood home in combray and his bedtime routine with his mother
- His family dynamics
 - Aunt Leonie teasing his grandmother
 - Transition to present day Aunt Leonie, who is bedridden over losing her husband
 - M. Swann and what his family thinks about him
 - How is grandma is worried about Marcel’s future
 - His father and mother wanting him to be more independent
- Society
 - Aunt Leonie not believing M. Swann’s reputation as “proper”

What *is* an event?

- Significant occurrence that develops a character or advances the plot
- The relevancy of an event can change as time passes and what once was an important event could become irrelevant, or be forgotten and brought up by memories like in combray.
- Subjective - what is considered an event for one person might not be considered an event for someone else
- Is whatever seems like a critical or important thing that happened in someone's life

What counts as something happening? (Rather than description of places, things, people...)

- Something happening:
 - Describing something with emotion/emotively
 - ex. Marcel described his mother and how she looked beautiful when it was dark (description also adds to their relationship).
 - Connecting physical description to other things that have happened
- Just a description:
 - Describing physical attributes, external environment with no emotion or no takeaway.
 - Tends to be more objective

What *happens* in “Combray”? What events (if any) does it narrate?

- Talks about childhood and his routine
- Focuses on events of memory
- Narrates the past

What *is* an event? What counts as something happening? (Rather than description of places, things, people...)

- Coming of age narrative.
- Lesbian neighbor scandal
- Meeting the women he imagined throughout the story (Mlle. Swann and the Duchess of Guermante). These were very BUILT UP TO events that were suggested at throughout which made them important.
- Something that adds to the plot or message of a novel, that further amplifies themes and ideas
- Event can be subjective, some may define something as a major life event while others may think it to be insignificant

An event is something that happens which is noteworthy/has a significant impact on the reader? An event can have many different aspects (ex: personal, historical, social). An event can have an impact on people.

Breakout Room 7

Names: Adia , Jessica, Gabby, Domenica

What happens in Combray?

- Autobiographical events
- Drifting to sleep
- Looking back at certain eras of his childhood in different rooms
- Rich aunt
- Goodnight kiss and his mother (father being an ass- jealousy? NO)
- POOR little Combray town
- A hazy recollection of childhood memories
- Inconsistencies?

An event is something the author focuses on more? The “Magic Lantern” - brief but showcases how Marcel views his memories, it also sets a an important moment from how he felt about his room before and after the lantern, and how it only created a

sequence of memories but also more longing for his mother's kiss. When Marcel's father does not let Marcel even peck his mother on the cheek as he leaves for bed

Breakout Room 8

Names: Sukanya, Alizey, Maya Lehman

- Events are occurring in his memory, such as him wanting a kiss from his mother before bed, discussions in his family and between other characters, him reading, the fights that occur, his grandmother fighting with his father (about playing in the rain)
 - A lot of the events are emotionally charged and can be described through said emotions (ex. Some actions are anger)
 - An event to us is something that occurs and can be described
 - For something to "happen" there has to be some motion or change
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Breakout Room 9

Names: Angel Manzo, Rick Su, Meave Choy, Maia Dueck

- Upon reading: initial difficulty tracking where people are in the plot, how to keep track of events
 - Event: something that feels important to the character, something significant to one character wouldn't be as significant to another because of their individual life experiences, something that changes their point of view in a way
 - Significant events: his aunt's sickness and eventual death, eating the madeline, wanting mom's goodnight kisses, relationship with neighbors (M. Swann, fallout with Legrandin), walks/family time also had an impact on the narrator
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Breakout Room 10

Names: Jonathan Jang, Avery Patterson, Farahnaz Nazari, Indra Odbayar

What is an event? What counts as something happening?:

- It has a dramatic influence on the character -> furthers character development
- Perhaps how long the author spends on the character
- Significant to the plot and or characters
- What greater themes the event taking place brings about
- The thing that is happening rather than the act of remembering it

What *happens* in “Combray”? What events (if any) does it narrate?

- Madeline consuming → traveling back in time
- Going to Church → the concept of time and how it changes
- M.Swann coming over for dinner → his father allowing his mother to stay with him for the night
- Being banned from seeing his uncle → change of perspective of how you see adults

Breakout Room 11

Names: Sean Deacon, Nini Koul, Xinrui Wang

What is an event? What counts as something happening?

The event: Sifting through memories and small interactions (and how these events illicit those memories)

What is an event: Anything that happens in a book that has significance towards the plot

Happening vs. Description: Something that happens usually has an emotional connotation vs. description is objective (active vs. passive actors).

Breakout Room 12

Names: Ethan, Jasmeen, Sam, Jialu (Lucy) Xu

- Combray is an autobiography, but a semi-fictional one
- An event is something that advances the plot and has an impact on the character.
- Also helps us to know someone in the book more (reveals something)
- Whenever the protagonist interacts with something whether it be a person, place or thing
- Usually there is a cause and effect in an event, for example the madelaine in the tea and how that triggered a series of memories and created this event that has stands out within the book.
- It not only can change the protagonist's storyline but also the reader's perspective of the story as well.

Breakout Room 13

Names: Ruby Dyck Steinmann, Amryn Johal, Grace Meadows, Dhvani Ved

- Proust's memories were the events (get a glimpse into his life)
- Swann comes over for dinner and Proust doesn't get a kiss from his mother, send a note to her
- A kind of coming of age story of the narrator (we go with him through his memories from boyhood to adolescence)
- An event impacts you in some way; character growth
- An event makes the reader feel something or shows that the author is feeling something
- An event has an order to it, you can understand that there is a chronological order to the event (eg. the beginning, middle, and end of one of his memories)
- Spends summers in Combray with his Aunt Leonie, the routine's of their family and life

Breakout Room 14

Names: Samantha Rogers, Prathyush S, Katrina Escobal, Kritika Singh

- An event is something that happens and has importance to the plot
- Event: narrator's mom stays with him for the night after his father finally allows it
- When Narrator wants a goodnight kiss from his mother → event
- Descriptions of the settings, when he goes to the church, or when he wakes up in the first couple of pages
- Mr Swann visiting them creates a chain of events
- The use of weather in the novel
- Smaller stories in the bigger context of the book which count as events (visiting his uncle)
- A collection of memories rather than a larger plot that is common in most novels

Breakout Room 15

Names: Julia Moniz-Lecce, Jonathan Xu, Laureenne, Ava

What is an event?

- impacts the main character in a way that causes a shift in thinking or reality
- Different levels to events, could be major or minor
- Presents a change in emotion or a break of habit

- There weren't many big events, but more a collection of what he thought was important with his family members.
- More descriptive about characters and their lives rather than plot points. More character-driven over plot-driven.

Some things that could be seen as events:

- His aunt's husband dies
- Madeline into the tea
- Swann's visit

Breakout Room 16

Names: Yiwen Guo, Simi Braich

First he wrote he cannot fall asleep because every night his mom would always give him a goodnight kiss but didn't do it that night. Then he describes his childhood and describes his emotions and memories.

What Counts as an event?

- Proust tells this story in a very particular way, where its intention is to give a detailed description of the past
- For example- where he recalls minor behaviours his mother showed him, normally this would maybe not be considered an event, but because of the intention of the novel for Proust, these things are told as events
- In Combray, an event is almost everything Proust recalls because all these smaller stories and memories shape a much larger foundation of why he is who is he and what he has carried onwards

Breakout Room 17

Names: Shanelle, Franchesca, Janae, Gaby H., Sally Zhou

- *What happens in "Combray"?*
 - Autobiographic kind of writing style
 - First half is his child-self struggling to fall asleep. He needs his mom's goodnight kiss lmao.
 - Proust's description of the room, tiredness, feeling sleepy
 - Transition to childhood memories, particularly centred on receiving his A mothers kiss

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- *What events (if any) does it narrate?*
 - His aunt's husband dies
 - Madeline dipped in tea which floods him with childhood memories
 - Relationship with his mother (scenes; goodnight kisses)
 - Relationships between the families
 - Passage of time
- *What is an event?*
 - Character development
 - A moment the readers can connect with the character.
 - A phenomenon where we learn a lesson.
 - Important context provided to move the story forward
- *What counts as something happening? (Rather than description of places, things, people...)*
 - A change? Something changing. A change of state from one to another.
 - A driving force that pushes the characters or the plot towards a change/progresses the story.
 - An emotional impact?
 - On both the characters and readers

Breakout Room 18

Names: Katyayani Singh, Nadia Ulanowska, May Wang, Arissa Naumann, Ludivine Cat, Kelly Ou-Chin

What happens in "Combray"?

- This novel is a recount of his life events and both his voluntary and involuntary memory- it is like a biography in that sense
- The events that he describes are what he deems important to his childhood or journey as a writer

What events (if any) does it narrate?

- Narrator tries to get motherly affection after being sent to sleep early
- Madeleine scene, being transported back and transported to somewhere important
- Some conversations being recalled (including ones discussing Swann)
- Swann visits the family
- recollection of childhood memories

What is an event?

- An event is something that occurs which is noteworthy or important for the development of the protagonist or the story in general. It is something that influences the general plot of the novel.
- An event involves a change, where the character is also changed in some way

What counts as something happening? (Rather than description of places, things, people...)

- In this book what counts as something happening is something important to the narrator- the madeline scene may not be significant to some but is significant to him, becoming an event
- Interactions between characters
- Some sense of “movement” of characters, some development of plot or ideas
- Feeling strong emotions even if there is no action happening