

READING 1922

- Location: The Rosenbach of the Free Library of Philadelphia
2008-2010 Delancey Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103
- Time: Five odd Thursdays, 6–8 p.m. (for dates, see “Readings” section, below)
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GOALS

1922 is widely regarded as the *annus mirabilis* or “wonder-year” of international modernism—the year when, recoiling from a global conflict and a global pandemic, the world burst into experimental artistic glory. To mark the centenary of that year, we’ll read several of the works responsible for its reputation, including Virginia Woolf’s *Jacob’s Room*, T. S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land*, Claude McKay’s *Harlem Shadows*, and Katherine Mansfield’s *The Garden Party and Other Stories*. The reading(s) for our fifth and final session we’ll decide as a class. Possibilities include selections from James Joyce’s *Ulysses*; Agatha Christie’s first “Tommy and Tuppence” detective mystery, *The Secret Adversary*; and *Theodore Savage*, a post-apocalyptic science-fiction fable by suffragist Cicely Hamilton. Participants needn’t be familiar with any of these writers to enjoy the class.

READINGS

Please purchase (these editions recommended):

T. S. Eliot, “The Waste Land,” in *Selected Poems* (Harcourt, ISBN 0156806479)
Katherine Mansfield, *The Garden Party and Other Stories* (Penguin, ISBN 978-0141441801)
Claude McKay, *Harlem Shadows* (Angelico Press, ISBN 978-1621387107)
Virginia Woolf, *Jacob’s Room* (Harcourt, ISBN 978-0156034791)

Supplementary readings (“+”):

Online readings and pdfs are linked below in blue.

- 2/17 Mansfield, *The Garden Party and Other Stories*
+ selection of Mansfield's journal entries and letters
+ North, introduction to *Reading 1922: A Return to the Scene of the Modern* (1999)
- 3/10 Woolf, *Jacob's Room*
+ Woolf, "Modern Novels" (1919)
- 3/31 McKay, *Harlem Shadows*
+ Max Eastman, introduction to first edition
- 4/21 Eliot, *The Waste Land*
+ "[Tradition and the Individual Talent](#)" (1919)
+ OPTIONAL: Additional annotations: [hypertext](#)
- 5/26 TBD