

## Professions for Women Reading Questions

1. Virginia Woolf writes, "The cheapness of writing paper is, of course, the reason why women have succeeded as writer before they have succeeded in the other professions" (525). What does she mean by this? Explain her reasoning.
2. What does the fact that Woolf bought a cat with the wages from her first professional piece of writing tell us about her position in life?
3. What is *The Angel in the House*? Why does Woolf "kill" her? Why does Woolf have to "kill" her?
4. What is significant (and unexpected) about the second and third of the following three sentences: "I hope I am not giving away professional secrets if I say that a novelist's chief desire is to be as unconscious as possible. He has to induce in himself a state of perpetual lethargy. He wants life to proceed with the utmost quiet and regularity" (527).
5. When Woolf writes, "This I believe to be a very common experience with women writers—they are impeded by the extreme conventionality of the other sex" (528), what claim is she making about the way men affect women's writing?
6. Woolf focuses primarily on two obstacles that have stood in the way of her writing. Both are presented as allegories (metaphorical stories). What are the obstacles as she describes them? What does each metaphor represent in reality?