

# William Faulkner

## “A Rose for Emily”

1. What narrative voice does Faulkner utilize in this story?
2. What is the conflict in this story? Which character has a stronger disconnect with reality: Emily, her father, or the townspeople themselves?
3. Where does the rose appear in the story?
4. Aside from the obvious conclusion, what other elements reinforce this tale as a Southern Gothic genre?
5. What symbol can Tobe, the black servant represent? What do you make of his actions at the close of the book?
6. Is Emily a figure of revenge with tragic circumstances — or a “crazy old woman” living in a world of delusion? Back up your ideas with evidence from story.
7. Compare Miss Emily with Poe’s Montresor and Poe’s unnamed protagonist. Which does she mirror the closest? Back up your answer with evidence.
8. Compare Miss Emily against the other protagonists in past readings for class: the Goose Girl, Chopin’s Mrs. Mallard, and Gilman’s unnamed victim. In what similar manners do these characters transform after withdrawal from their communities?

## “Wash”

1. What narrative voice does Faulkner utilize in this story?
3. What archetype does Wash transform into by closure of this story?
4. Aside from the obvious conclusion, what other elements reinforce this tale as a Southern Gothic genre?
5. Why does Faulkner leave out specific, descriptive details regarding the deaths of Sutpen, Wash’s daughter and grandchild?
6. Both stories utilize similar recordings of time sequences. What is the purpose for using this strategy? Why is it effective?