

William Faulkner – "A Rose For Emily"

I.

- 1) Why do the men go to the funeral?
- 2) Why do the women go to the funeral?
- 3) Who is the only person who has been inside the house for the previous ten years?
- 4) How has the neighborhood around Emily's house changed over the years?
- 5) What historical allusion is made by Faulkner at the end of the first paragraph?
- 6) How is the racial inequality of the South in the late 1800s shown in the actions of Satoris?
- 7) How does "cover" his favor to Emily?
- 8) What does "the next generation" want Emily to do?
- 9) How do the Aldermen try to get Emily to pay her taxes?
- 10) How does the house smell? Why?
- 11) What sits on an easel?
- 12) How does Faulkner describe the way Emily looks?
- 13) How long had Satoris been dead?

II.

- 14) What happened 30 years before?
- 15) What does Judge Stevens think the smell is that is bothering the neighbors?
- 16) How does Judge Stevens demonstrate the Southern emphasis on politeness and etiquette?
- 17) What do the men do to remedy the problem of the smell? Does Emily notice their efforts?
- 18) Why does the town think that there may be insanity in the Grierson family?
- 19) What does Emily deny for three days? Why does the narrator think that she does this?

III.

- 20) How does Faulkner use Homer Barron to symbolize Northern hypocrisy? What do his actions resemble from the Old South?
- 21) Who does Homer begin to hang around with?

22) What does the neighborhood have a hard time believing?

23) What does Emily purchase?

24) What reason does she give for purchasing it?

IV.

25) What does the town believe Ms. Emily will do?

26) Who joins Emily at the house?

27) What happens soon after Homer Barron is seen for the last time?

28) What might her vigorous iron-gray hair represent (think gray and the South)?

29) What does Emily do that gives her some connection to the outside world?

V.

30) What might Tobe's exit from Emily's house represent?

31) What are some of the older men wearing at the funeral?

32) Why did Emily kill Homer? Why was the "For Rats" on the box of arsenic an example of Dark Humor?