

Assignment 1: Short Story Analysis

Lesson Objectives:

- 1) Identify and review the basic elements of a short story
- 2) Apply that knowledge to the short story, "A Rose for Emily" by Faulkner by answering the questions that follow.

Read the short story "A Rose for Emily". You should be highlighting and making note of any short story elements and literary devices that you notice as you read. Consider the chart that you completed in the diagnostic activity. Once finished, complete the questions that follow.

Brief Outline of "A Rose for Emily"

One of the famous quotes from William Faulkner the author is "given the choice between experience of pain of nothing, I would choose pain." This speaks volumes about how this idea is reflected through the story. We have here a disturbed and mysterious main character of Emily, whose family was at one point respected within the town. Obviously the element of time is an important factor here, and as the town progresses, Miss Emily stays the same. The story is told around the early 1900's which is obvious by the blatant racism and gender stereotypes evident within the story. The story is told from a unique perspective and keep in mind the symbolic nature of the dust and her house. The ending is also important, and clues about how the story ends are given throughout the story. Pay particular attention to Part V to put it all together.

"A Rose for Emily" Story

Follow up questions for "A Rose for Emily":

- 1) What is the significance of the title?
- 2) Whose POV is the story told from? How is that important to the story?
- 3) How is Emily a defiant character? Give a specific example from the text.
- 4) Why does the author choose to repeat the words "I have no taxes in Jefferson"? How is this an important part of the story?

5) Discuss the significance of the dust as a recurring motif. Why is it important to the ending?

6) Identify one theme (subject/main idea) and create a theme statement.