

“A Rose for Emily” Group Discussion

Instructions:



- ❑ Elect a recorder for your group. This person must write down the (reasonable) ideas shared and discussed. Pick a fast, thorough writer who won't mind sharing your results aloud.
- ❑ Discuss your assigned question with your group . . .
 - with one person talking at a time
 - looking at the text to find answers
 - coming up with multiple responses
 - answering each part of the question.
- ❑ Move on to the next chronological question (if your group was assigned #4, you would move on to #5, then #1, etc.).
- ❑ *Stay on task*, and think analytically, symbolically, and literarily. You are responsible for coming up with thoughtful and profound arguments based on the text.

“A Rose for Emily” Group Discussion Questions



1. Except for the title and the bridal décor in Section V, an actual rose is never mentioned in the story. **Why might Faulkner have chosen this title? And, why isn't it called “A Rose for *Miss* Emily” when that's what everyone calls her?**
2. Death is a major thematic element in the story. **How many times does the subject of death arise?—Identify those parts. How is death used to foreshadow the resolution?**
3. Aside from the flashbacks in the story's structure, **locate any symbolic or literal references to time—or the denial of time passing—in the story. What might Faulkner be trying to show?** Remember that details are there for a reason, not simply because the author needed to use up ink.
4. Although Emily is indifferent to the town, the town seems to be almost obsessed with her. **In their fascination with her, do you think they built a community of support or further isolated her?** Find specific examples to support your opinion.
5. Every tragedy needs a hero. **Do you consider Emily a tragic heroine? What do Faulkner and/or the narrator think?** Find clues in the way the narrator describes Emily and the way the town thinks of her.

Definition of tragic hero:

Someone who is neither purely innocent nor purely evil. This person is usually born high in the ranks of society and must also possess a tragic flaw, which originates from within and usually manifests itself through poor judgment and/or extreme arrogance. The tragic flaw also dooms the character to a ruinous and inevitable destiny. In a tragedy, this should arouse pity in the audience.