

**A Rose for Emily**

by William Faulkner

Reading Guide (pages refer to Elements of Literature, HRW)

**Vocabulary**

Word	Page	What it means
obliterate(d)	592	destroy, eliminate, eradicate
august	592	majestic, dignified, noble
perpetuity	592	time without end, infinity
pallid	594	pale, colorless, ashen
vanquish(ed)	594	conquer, defeat, subdue
vindicate(d)	595	justify, prove correct
circumvent	598	avoid, get around, evade
sibilant	598	a soft "s" sound

**Analyzing Plot Sequence**

Eight events from the story are given here. In the space below, list them first as they are given in the story. Then, put them in the order that they would actually have occurred in time.

<b>Events:</b> Homer's arriving in town, the visit of the aldermen, Emily's buying the poison, Colonel Sartoris's deciding not to tax Emily, the death of Emily's father, the stench coming from the house, the arrival of Emily's relatives, Homer's disappearance	
As disclosed in the story	Chronological Order (time order)

### **Questions to Ponder (and answer)**

For each of the five sections of the story, there are several questions. Answer each carefully and support your answers with evidence from the story.

#### **Part I**

1. What is your impression of Miss Emily's house?
2. How does Miss Emily treat her visitors?

#### **Part II**

3. Why were people glad to find out that all Emily's father left her was the house?
4. How did the townspeople finally solve the problem with the smell?

#### **Part III**

5. Why do the townspeople say, "Poor Emily"?
6. What does Miss Emily want the arsenic for?

#### **Part IV**

7. Why is it, according to the townspeople, that Homer Barron would not marry Emily?
8. What do the townspeople believe happened to Homer Barron?
9. How does Faulkner describe Miss Emily's hair in this section?

#### **Part V**

10. Describe the room upstairs that no one had seen in forty years.

