College Comp
Mr. Reynolds
“A Rose for Emily”
Guide

Directions: Answer these questions as you read Faulkner’s iconic “A Rose for Emily.”

1. In Part I of the story, Faulkner refers to Emily as “a fallen monument” and a “tradition,” a “duty,” a “care,” and an “obligation.” Explain what he wants us to think of Emily.

2. Why doesn’t Emily believe she has to pay taxes?

3. How does Emily treat the younger generation of city elders? What might this reveal about her character?

4. In the second paragraph of Part II, list all of the details we learn about Emily.

5. How do the men of the town tackle the smell coming from Emily’s house? What does this reveal about the society in which they live at this time?

6. What odd thing does Emily think about her father towards the end of Part II? What might this reveal about Emily?

7. In Part III, who does Emily meet that seems to shock the community? What do they dislike about this person?

8. What does Emily want to buy from the druggist?

9. Why does the druggist scroll “for rats” on the package he finally gives to Emily? That is, why does he really write this on the box?

10. In Part IV, why do the towns people think Emily will kill herself?

11. What do the ladies of the think is a bad example? What does this reveal about the society in which they live at this time?
12. What are some further details we learn about Homer Barron in this section?

13. What happens to Emily at the end of Part IV?

14. Explain what happens in the final four paragraphs of the story. What does this reveal about Emily?

15. Put these plot details in their correct order (note that the plot is not told in chronological order).
    - Emily dies
    - Colonel Sartoris remits her taxes
    - Homer leaves town
    - Emily is born
    - The smell begins
    - Emily's father dies
    - Emily buys poison
    - Homer shows up
    - Tobe leaves for good
    - Home leaves town
    - The city elders deal with the smell
    - Emily dismisses the city fathers about her taxes

16. Why would Faulkner choose to place the events out of order?

17. Critics claim that Miss Emily is a symbol for "the old south"? Explain how she might serves as this.

18. What is one theme evident in the story? Offer evidence of it from the story.