

“A Rose for Emily” – William Faulkner

CHRONOLOGY ACTIVITY

Directions: The unnamed narrator details Miss Emily’s life events for us, but the details are not in chronological order. See if you can put them in order, from the earliest event in Emily Grierson’s life to the last. Use a pencil, and number the events from 1-11. Answer the Level Questions that follow.

_____ Miss Emily dies – no family, no money; described as fat, gray headed, and “yellowing”

_____ In 1894, Miss Emily’s taxes are remitted as a subtle, charitable gesture.

_____ The city authorities come to Miss Emily’s home to collect her taxes, but she turns them away. She refuses to pay.

_____ After her sweetheart “went away,” a rancid odor is detected around Miss Emily’s home. Men from the community treat her yard and the surrounding buildings, eliminating the odor.

_____ Miss Emily’s father, who had driven away all of her suitors, dies.

_____ Miss Emily is courted by a Yankee named Homer Barron.

_____ Miss Emily buys arsenic against the advisement of the druggist, causing a wave of suspicion.

_____ The Baptist minister comes to talk to Miss Emily about her courtship with Mr. Barron. Her cousins come to visit, and it appears wedding preparations are being made—even though Barron is “not a marrying man.”

_____ Barron leaves but returns—then disappears again. Miss Emily grows fat and gray.

_____ At age 40, Miss Emily gave china painting lessons to children.

_____ Barron’s body is found in an upstairs room in Miss Emily’s home. He is in an embracing position. A strand of gray hair is found in the pillow indentation beside the body.

Level Questions (may be answered on the back)

One

Describe the condition of Miss Emily’s home.

Why are Miss Emily’s taxes remitted?

Two

What does Miss Emily’s defiance indicate about her mental state? (Think of her father’s death, the purchase of the arsenic, and her reference to Col. Sartoris.)

Why do you think this story is called “A *Rose* for Emily?”

Three

How does society treat nonconformists and recluses like Miss Emily?

