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English 102 10

Response Essay

“A Rose for Emily”: A Response

“A Rose for Emily,” written by William Faulkner in 1930, is about a woman named Emily Grierson. In this story Miss Emily has a hard time parting with the people she loves, even after they are dead. When Miss Emily’s father passes away, she refuses to accept the fact that he is dead and does not let them bury his body. The law is enforced and she has no choice but to give up her father’s corpse. Then Homer Barron comes into the picture and everyone is happy for Miss Emily, because she has finally found someone. Shortly after they started dating, Miss Emily purchases rat poison, arsenic. Years go by without anyone seeing any sign of Miss Emily and Homer. Then, Miss Emily passes away and her neighbors come to her funeral to pay their respects. When they arrive, they become anxious to know what is in the locked upstairs room. After they bury Miss Emily, they kick down the bedroom door. What they discover is Homer’s dead body lying in the bed and a long strand of iron-gray hair on the pillow next to Homer’s. The neighbors conclude that Miss Emily was sleeping next to Homer even after he is dead. “A Rose for Emily”, is written in a confusing style that is grammatically wrong and unrealistic.

This story is very difficult to comprehend. Faulkner writes with a style that today is taught in classrooms as a mistake. He uses run on sentences throughout the whole story. I don’t believe that this is a good story that should still be studied in classrooms today. The structure of this story is very confusing. It is hard to keep track of the order the events take place in. In the story, the author does not use chronological order. Instead Faulkner interchanges the actually

sequence the events take place in. For instance, Faulkner writes that the smell coming from Miss Emily's house is before Homer died. In reality the smell took place after his body was decaying. The structure made it hard to follow the story.

This story is unsettling for many reasons. For one, Miss Emily is a disturbing lady. She does not have it all together; she sleeps next to Homer's lifeless corpse. In addition, she lives in an eerie house hardly ever leaving. How is it possible for Miss Emily to live without ever leaving her house? With all the complaints about the smell coming from Miss Emily's home and nothing being done about it, is also unreasonable. If that happened nowadays something would have been done. In addition, the fact that she believes she does not have to pay her taxes is another example of how impractical the story is. In reality, she could not get away with this. This story made no sense because of the style.

Works Consulted

Faulkner, William. "A Rose for Emily." Literature: Approaches to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama.

Ed. Robert DiYanni. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2004. 73-79