

Digital Yoknapatawpha Worksheet

Faulkner's Symbolism: The Gun

Objective: Throughout Faulkner's writing he uses many different objects as symbols. In this work sheet the object that will be looked at is the gun. This worksheet will have you examine different passages and to understand the ways that Faulkner uses the gun as a symbol.

Directions:

- Go to the Digital Yoknapatawpha website: <http://faulkner.iath.virginia.edu/>
 - Answer the questions on this worksheet.
1. Find the book *The Unvanquished* underneath the DY homepage and click on the link. Once there, click on to the "Display Controls" and click on "Show Character", and "Alphabetic List". Scroll until you identify "Drusilla Hawk," click on her character in the region section of the screen, then click on the "Events Tab". Finally click on the passage "236-241" and read the event description.
 - What does the way Drusilla hands the pistols to Bayard symbolize in the novel *The Unvanquished* as a whole?
 - How does viewing the event on the map help with visualizing where this took place?
 2. Return to the homepage and click on the Faulkner novel *The Sound and the Fury*. Click on the Event tab and locate the event titled Dalton Ames (79-80) and analyze the scene.
 - Think critically about the altercation that Quentin has with Dalton Ames, what do you believe the gun symbolizes?
 - Consider again what the gun represented with Drusilla in *The Unvanquished*. Has the gun been reinterpreted to symbolize some other idea in *The Sound and the Fury*?

3. Return to the Homepage once again. Click on the separate section of *Go Down, Moses* titled “The Bear.” Then click on the location tab of the page so it only reveals “Event Locations” on the map. Once you have done so, click on the event titled, “Glade/Landmark Tree.” Read the description, and analyze the passages on pages 289-291. (Unfortunately, this link isn’t available to read on the site and you will need to read it directly from the novel.)

- Ike leaves several of his earthly belongings behind when walking with Old Ben, what do you believe is significant regarding Ike leaving his gun behind? (Think of the man versus nature aspect of this section)
- Why do you think Old Ben needed Ike to leave the gun behind before Ike could follow him? What societal critique do you believe this may be trying to make?

Conclusions

- How is the symbolic meaning(s) of the gun similar in each of the three texts?
- What different symbolic meanings are present in the three texts?
- How does the gun symbolism help to illuminate the characters in each scene?
- Do you think Faulkner is saying something about guns and violence with these symbols?