

English 11/AP English Language and Composition

Grade-level students: You may choose between the *explication de texte* and the creative project.

AP Lang students: You must complete both the *explication de texte* and the creative project.

Proposal due: Thursday, April 12

Project update due: Wednesday, April 18

Final project and presentation: Wednesday, April 25

Written work may be handed in on paper or uploaded to the Jupiter assignment set up for that purpose.

I. *Explication de texte*.

Choose a short passage from *As I Lay Dying* that has seemed meaningful to your reading. You may choose a short description, a line of dialogue, and image. What you choose need not be prominent or overtly important to the plot. In fact, it might be fun to choose a passage that seems obscure. Keep your choice continuous (not two lines here, one line there) and short (no longer than four lines in Faulkner's text). Then, begin to analyze it very fully, from many different angles.

The premise for the *explication de texte* is that Faulkner's work stands. Every tiny flake of text contributes to the overall unity of vision. So, for the tiny flake of text you choose, you will want to:

- A. provide an overall close reading for the passage, a reading that keeps in mind the symbolism and intertextual and cultural resonances of certain words (allusions to *Macbeth*? the *Odyssey*? the *Bible*? examples of universal symbolism? archetypes?), the implications of sentence structure (loose sentences, periodic sentences, other syntactic patterns), the effects of sound (alliteration, assonance, consonance, rhythm; and,
- B. place the text in its context, discussing how it fits into the surrounding material (the preceding and subsequent sentences, paragraphs, and sections/chapters) and the effects of juxtaposition; and,
- C. discuss the relevance of the passage to the rest of the novel, exploring not only plot and characterization but also style, tone, mood, etc.

You may divide your work into sections, as you did for the Emily Dickinson paper. This whole exploration should come in at three pages, at least.

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II. Creative options.

In all cases, be sure what you produce not only captures the content/meaning/theme of what you are setting forth or imitating but also utilizes stylistic techniques reminiscent of Faulkner's work. Our discussion of modernism in art should have a clear relationship to what you produce here. A realistic drawing of Jewel on his horse, for example, is not an appropriate response to this assignment, even if you can tell that Jewel is angry.

Creative projects must be accompanied by a three-quarter page well written artist's statement that explains the project's goals and uses specific textual references to *As I Lay Dying* (and the Branch article, if desired). If you cite sources outside of *As I Lay Dying*, you must include a Works Cited page.

We have talked about various student examples of creative work in response to *As I Lay Dying*. You may:

- A. Create a visual representation of a scene in the novel. Be sure your technique is reflective of the cubist/collage/bricolage techniques that you detect in Faulkner's writing; or,
- B. Make a film; or,
- C. Write and perform (or record) a piece of music; or,
- D. Write a poem from the point of view of one of the characters; or,
- E. Write an additional section from a character who appears or is referred to in the novel—consider a character presented in the text but whose story is not known.