

# Faulkner's Narrators

Beacon Hill Seminars, Fall 2016 – Six Sessions

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Assignment for November 9

## Reading:

- > *The Sound and the Fury*, Jason, pp.180-264, the Chapter entitled “April Sixth, 1928.”
- > **Optional:** SparkNotes analysis of the Jason section, on the web page.

## Discussion Topics:

With the Jason section, displaying to us one of the angriest and meanest men in all of literature, we are finally able to piece together the story of the Compson family and its decline, and with this, can identify the Compson family as the true protagonist of this novel.

This section appears to be time-present, but in spots it lapses into the past without notice, potentially giving the reader a jolt. Be alert for the time shifts, and connect them to events already presented in the Benjy and Quentin sections.

Our focus in discussing this section will be to identify, with citation of specific text, how Faulkner uses Jason's first-person narration to paint the current state of the family and also to link both past events and larger societal issues into the story.

Our discussion will address the following topics in (possibly) semi-random order:

- > Jason's situation and character: his work, his family life, his devious schemes around money, his attitudes toward Jews and negroes as well as the (non-family) whites with whom he interacts.
- > The interpersonal dynamics among Jason, Quentin, and Jason's mother Caroline.
- > The status and role of Dilsey through Jason's eyes.
- > The entire Compson family as protagonist.