

# Faulkner's Narrators

Beacon Hill Seminars, Fall 2016 – Six Sessions

Stephen Senturia

Assignment for October 12

## Reading:

- > *The Sound and the Fury*, Benjy, pp. 3-75, the Chapter entitled “April Seventh, 1928.”
- > Porter, *William Faulkner*, pp. 39-54, beginning with the heading “*The Sound and the Fury*” to the end of Chapter One; excerpt is on the web page.
- > **Optional** (for those who prefer some support while reading this very difficult section): The SparkNotes analysis of the Benjy section, on the web page.

## Discussion Topics:

Our discussion will be in three parts:

1. Comparing the narrative devices used in the Benjy section with those in the first chapter of *Sartoris* from last week. We will examine the two different methods of handling time, past and present.
2. Sorting out of the characters and events from Benjy's collage of time and space, aided by the Porter and SparkNotes materials.
3. Collecting impressions of interpersonal relations as revealed through this very indirect form of narration.

Benjy and Caddy

Jason and his siblings

Benjy's parents to each other and to their children

The various generations of blacks, both within their families and with the Compsons