

# Faulkner's Narrators

Beacon Hill Seminars, Fall 2016 – Six Sessions

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Assignment for Oct 5

## Texts:

It is important to get this specific edition of *The Sound and the Fury* or its Kindle equivalent as we will be citing passages by page number.

William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury, Corrected Text*, (Vintage, 1990), Pbk, \$8.79; ISBN-10: 0679732241; ISBN-13: 978-0679732242.

All other readings will be available for download at this website:

[www.stephendsenturia.com/BHS](http://www.stephendsenturia.com/BHS)

## Topics to be discussed on Oct 5:

- > Introductions (your two sentences of fame)
- > Faulkner's early life
- > Yoknapatawpha County
- > Faulkner's treatment of time and character
- > Example: Chapter 1 of *Sartoris*

## Readings:

- > Excerpt from Carolyn Porter, *William Faulkner: Lives and Legacies*, on the class website. Read pp. 1-39, up to the heading entitled *The Sound and the Fury*.
- > Chapter 1 from William Faulkner, *Sartoris*, on the class website. Our focus will be on Faulkner's treatment of time and character and how he uses story-telling to place different time intervals in front of the reader within the space of a few sentences. Therefore, it is not necessary to dwell on the details of the Civil War stories except to the extent that they reveal the character of John and Bayard Sartoris.

## Assignment:

Here is a list of some of the characters mentioned in the *Sartoris* excerpt. Using specific lines from the text, make notes on what you think you know about these characters: When they lived? How related to each other? Are they part of the book's present time, or only brought in by story-telling? What are salient character traits? (I ask that you try this using only the text itself. A genealogy is posted on the website, but it's best if you have tried this exercise on your own, just you and Faulkner's own words.)

- > Old Man Falls
- > Old Bayard Sartoris
- > Young Bayard Sartoris
- > Virginia Du Pre (Aunt Jenny)
- > John Sartoris
- > Simon
- > Elnora
- > The Carolina Bayard Sartoris