

# **Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!***

**Spring 2021 – Ten Sessions**

**Stephen Senturia**

**Assignment for Session 7**

## **Reading:**

> Chapter 6 of *Absalom, Absalom!*, pp. 141-175

## **Selection of Passages (a continuing reminder):**

Identify at least one passage that strikes YOU of deserving attention in class:

Significant plot elements

Character-revealing

Language rich enough to enjoy reading aloud

Unresolved or unexplained puzzles in the text

Note the page, line number, the first few words of the section, and where it ends.

Email your selections to me at [sds@mit.edu](mailto:sds@mit.edu). I will assemble them into an agenda for the day of the session.

## **Discussion Topics:**

In Chapter 6, almost halfway through the novel, the scene shifts to Harvard, with Quentin's roommate, Shreve, encouraging Quentin to retell and rethink. This chapter takes us almost to the end of the story, with still about one-third of the book to go. In particular, we finally learn at least a version of why Aunt Rosa threw over Sutpen, how Sutpen died, and much more about his progeny.

The narrative structure of this chapter is particularly complex, sometimes leaving the reader guessing as to who is speaking, and on what authority. Who does most of the talking?

Expect a lot of reading aloud during this session, followed by explication of what in the devil is going on. Do we yet have clarity on why Henry killed Bon?