

A black and white, high-contrast portrait of William Faulkner. He is shown from the chest up, in profile, looking towards the right. His right hand is raised to his face, with fingers resting against his cheek and temple. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt and a dark tie. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights on his hair and hand.

WILLIAM  
FAULKNER

*Carolyn Porter*

LIVES AND LEGACIES

YOUTH AND APPRENTICESHIP:  
*THE SOUND AND THE FURY*

The Long Beginning

FAULKNER'S LIFE WAS ALL ABOUT STORIES—MAKING THEM UP, making them over, even making them true. As a child in Oxford, Mississippi, he was a famous storyteller, often spinning tales with more verisimilitude than veracity. He was also an ardent listener, as he had learned to be from listening to family stories told by his grandfather, his aunts and uncles, his neighbors, stories that were themselves often more made-up than not. Meanwhile, people began to tell stories about Faulkner as well, especially as he grew up and became a writer. Once he acquired a reputation as a novelist, he came to enjoy provoking stories about himself and his past as well as telling them himself. Between the tales he told of himself and those told about him, his biographers have thus had rich treasures to draw upon in their effort to tell Faulkner's own story. Although they've done an admirable job of sorting truth from fiction, they have also

