“A Rose for Emily” is one of the most well-known short stories of American fiction. It can be read for many themes including racism, love, deviation, Southern Traditionalism and time. It should also be read as a prime example of Souther Gothic fiction and as study in modernism.

Study Questions

1. What does Southern Gothic refer to in American literature?

2. In what aspects can “A Rose for Emily” be considered an example of Southern Gothic?

3. Who is the narrator in the short story? What is his relationship to the story and the main characters?

4. What’s the narrative structure of the story like? In what ways does it differ from traditional story telling?

5. Is the setting of the story important in the interpretation of it? Why/not?

6. Are there any themes related to racism in the short story?

7. What is William’s Faulkner legacy in American literature?