

as i lay dying analysis

As I Lay Dying Analysis: Exploring Faulkner's Masterpiece in Depth

as i lay dying analysis opens the door to one of American literature's most complex and compelling narratives. William Faulkner's 1930 novel is renowned for its innovative narrative style, rich symbolism, and profound exploration of family dynamics. Delving into the novel reveals a multi-layered story of grief, identity, and the human condition, all conveyed through a chorus of distinct voices. Whether you're a student, a literature enthusiast, or simply curious about Faulkner's work, understanding the nuances of *As I Lay Dying* offers a rewarding literary journey.

Understanding the Narrative Structure in As I Lay Dying

One of the first things that stands out in any *as i lay dying analysis* is Faulkner's unique narrative approach. The novel is told through multiple first-person perspectives, with 15 different chapters narrated by 15 different characters. This fragmented narrative style allows readers to piece together the story from various viewpoints, each colored by the personality and biases of the narrator.

The Multiplicity of Voices

Faulkner's choice to use multiple narrators is not just a stylistic experiment—it serves a deeper purpose. Each character's voice unveils their inner thoughts and emotional states, offering insight into family dynamics and individual motivations. For instance, Darl Bundren's poetic and often cryptic narration contrasts sharply with the straightforward, practical tone of his brother Cash. This multiplicity challenges readers to discern truth amidst subjectivity, emphasizing the complexity of human perception.

Stream of Consciousness and Interior Monologue

The novel frequently employs stream of consciousness techniques, where characters' thoughts flow freely, sometimes in a disjointed or nonlinear fashion. This method immerses readers into the characters' minds, revealing their fears, hopes, and memories. It also reflects the chaos and confusion surrounding the family's journey to bury their mother, Addie Bundren.

Themes Explored in As I Lay Dying

A thorough as i lay dying analysis wouldn't be complete without examining the novel's central themes. Faulkner weaves several profound ideas throughout the narrative, painting a vivid picture of human endurance and existential struggle.

Death and Mortality

At its core, As I Lay Dying is a story about death—both literal and metaphorical. The Bundren family's quest to bury Addie in her hometown serves as a physical and symbolic confrontation with mortality. Faulkner explores how death affects each family member differently, exposing their vulnerabilities and resilience. The novel also questions the meaning of death and the rituals surrounding it, highlighting the tension between personal grief and societal expectations.

Family and Isolation

The Bundrens are a fragmented family, each member isolated by their own thoughts and desires. Despite their collective goal, communication often breaks down, leading to misunderstandings and conflict. This theme resonates with readers as it reflects the universal experience of familial tension and the difficulty of truly connecting with others.

Identity and Existentialism

Throughout the journey, characters grapple with their sense of self and purpose. Addie's narration, for example, delves into existential reflections on language, identity, and the futility of existence. The novel suggests that identity is fluid and often shaped by external circumstances and internal struggles, a concept that adds philosophical depth to the narrative.

Symbolism and Imagery in the Novel

Faulkner's use of symbolism enriches the narrative, offering layers of meaning beyond the surface story. An effective as i lay dying analysis pays close attention to these symbols and their implications.

The Coffin as a Symbol

The coffin, which the Bundrens carry on their arduous journey, symbolizes both burden and connection. It represents the weight of responsibility each family member bears and the inescapable presence of death. The physical challenges of transporting the coffin mirror the emotional and psychological obstacles the characters face.

Water and Flood Imagery

Water appears repeatedly, especially during the river crossing scene, symbolizing both danger and cleansing. The flood that threatens the family's passage underscores the uncontrollable forces of nature and fate, suggesting that human plans are fragile in the face of larger powers.

Addie Bundren's Voice as Symbol

Addie's posthumous narration is particularly significant. Her voice challenges traditional notions of the dead as silent, instead giving her agency to express her complex feelings about life, language, and relationships. This narrative choice symbolizes the persistence of memory and the ways the past continues to influence the present.

Character Analysis: The Bundren Family

Understanding the Bundren family members is essential to grasping the emotional core of the novel. Each character embodies different traits and perspectives, creating a dynamic and sometimes conflicting portrait of a Southern family.

Darl Bundren: The Sensitive Outsider

Darl is often viewed as the novel's most introspective and enigmatic character. His heightened awareness and poetic sensibility set him apart, but also isolate him from others. Darl's eventual mental breakdown and fate raise questions about sanity, society's judgment, and the cost of sensitivity.

Cash Bundren: The Practical Craftsman

Cash is the embodiment of practicality and stoicism. His meticulous

construction of Addie's coffin reflects his dedication and love, even if expressed in a restrained manner. Cash's character highlights themes of duty and craftsmanship as forms of devotion.

Addie Bundren: The Matriarch's Legacy

Though Addie dies early in the story, her influence permeates the novel. Her narration offers a rare glimpse into her inner life, revealing bitterness, regret, and complex emotions. Addie's character challenges traditional portrayals of motherhood and femininity in Southern literature.

Language and Style: Faulkner's Literary Innovation

Faulkner's writing style in *As I Lay Dying* is a major focus of literary analysis due to its complexity and innovation. His use of colloquial Southern dialects, fragmented sentences, and shifting perspectives creates a vivid and immersive reading experience.

Dialect and Regional Speech

The novel's dialogue and narration are steeped in the vernacular of the rural South, grounding the story in a specific cultural and geographical context. This choice adds authenticity but also challenges readers unfamiliar with the dialect, requiring careful attention to nuance.

Fragmentation and Nonlinear Time

Faulkner frequently disrupts chronological order, weaving memories and present events together. This fragmentation mirrors the characters' psychological states and emphasizes themes of memory and perception.

Tips for Reading and Interpreting *As I Lay Dying*

Given its complexity, *As I Lay Dying* can be daunting to new readers. Here are some helpful pointers to deepen your understanding and appreciation:

- **Keep track of narrators:** Since the point of view shifts frequently,

noting who is narrating each chapter can clarify the story.

- **Pay attention to tone and style:** Each character's voice has unique speech patterns that reveal personality and emotions.
- **Look for recurring symbols:** The coffin, water, and Addie's voice are key symbols worth noting throughout the text.
- **Consider historical context:** Understanding the setting in the rural South during the early 20th century enriches the novel's themes.
- **Don't rush:** The novel's fragmented style invites slow, thoughtful reading to piece together meaning.

Reading *As I Lay Dying* is like assembling a literary puzzle, where each character's perspective adds a piece to the overall picture. This intricate storytelling invites readers to engage actively, interpret, and reflect on the human experiences Faulkner so vividly portrays.

In exploring *as i lay dying* analysis, one uncovers a profound meditation on life, death, and the ties that bind us, revealing why Faulkner's work remains a cornerstone of American literature.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'As I Lay Dying' by William Faulkner?

The central theme of 'As I Lay Dying' is the complexity of family dynamics, exploring themes of death, grief, and the varying perceptions of reality among family members.

How does Faulkner's use of multiple narrators affect the narrative in 'As I Lay Dying'?

Faulkner's use of multiple narrators provides diverse perspectives, allowing readers to understand the inner thoughts and motivations of different characters, which creates a multifaceted and fragmented narrative structure.

What role does the journey to bury Addie Bundren play in the novel?

The journey to bury Addie Bundren serves as both a physical and symbolic quest, highlighting themes of duty, suffering, and the struggle for meaning within the Bundren family and their individual experiences.

How is the character of Darl Bundren significant in the novel?

Darl Bundren is significant as he often serves as the novel's most introspective and perceptive character, with his narrative chapters revealing deep insights into the family's dynamics and the existential questions raised in the story.

In what ways does 'As I Lay Dying' explore the theme of death and its impact on the living?

The novel explores death's impact by portraying each family member's unique response to Addie's death, showing how grief affects their behavior, relationships, and perceptions, ultimately emphasizing the subjective nature of mourning.

How does Faulkner's writing style in 'As I Lay Dying' contribute to the novel's overall effect?

Faulkner's use of stream-of-consciousness narration, fragmented narrative, and vernacular language immerses readers in the characters' minds, enhancing the emotional intensity and complexity of the novel's themes.

Additional Resources

As I Lay Dying Analysis: A Deep Dive into Faulkner's Stream of Consciousness Masterpiece

as i lay dying analysis uncovers the intricate narrative and thematic layers embedded in William Faulkner's 1930 novel, a cornerstone of American modernist literature. This work is renowned for its experimental narrative style, multiple perspectives, and profound exploration of familial bonds and existential suffering. Through a neutral and investigative lens, this article examines how Faulkner's use of stream of consciousness and fragmented storytelling shapes the reader's understanding of the Bundren family's odyssey, while also situating the novel within the broader context of 20th-century literary innovation.

Narrative Structure and Style in As I Lay Dying

One of the defining features discussed in any **as i lay dying analysis** is Faulkner's innovative narrative structure. The novel unfolds through 15 different narrators, each providing their own subjective viewpoint. This multiplicity of voices contributes to a kaleidoscopic portrayal of events, inviting readers to piece together the story of Addie Bundren's death and the

family's journey to bury her in Jefferson.

Faulkner's use of stream of consciousness—where characters' thoughts and feelings are presented in a flow that mimics natural thought processes—is a hallmark of the novel's style. This technique challenges traditional linear storytelling, demanding active engagement from readers to interpret fragmented and sometimes contradictory narratives. The shifting perspectives reveal the inner workings of each character's mind, highlighting their motivations, fears, and desires.

Multiperspectivity and Its Impact

The decision to tell the story from multiple viewpoints serves several purposes:

- **Subjectivity of Truth:** Each narrator's account differs, emphasizing the elusiveness of objective truth. For instance, Darl's introspective and poetic narration contrasts sharply with the pragmatic and terse observations of Anse Bundren.
- **Character Development:** Through varied perspectives, Faulkner delves into complex character psychologies, exposing their contradictions and vulnerabilities.
- **Emotional Depth:** The multiplicity of voices enriches the emotional texture of the novel, allowing readers to empathize with characters who might otherwise seem unrelatable.

This narrative approach aligns with modernist literary trends of the early 20th century, where authors sought to represent human consciousness more authentically.

Thematic Exploration in Faulkner's Novel

Beyond its narrative form, as i lay dying analysis often centers on the novel's profound themes. At its core, the story is a meditation on death, family, and the human condition.

Death and Mortality

The Bundren family's quest to honor Addie's dying wish to be buried in her hometown frames the entire narrative. Death is omnipresent—not only in

Addie's passing but in the symbolic deaths experienced by each character. Through their struggles and suffering, Faulkner explores how death shapes identity and family dynamics.

Family Duty and Dysfunction

The novel interrogates the bonds that tie the Bundren family together, exposing both loyalty and fracture. Anse Bundren's stubbornness, for example, complicates the journey, while Dewey Dell's silence about her pregnancy adds layers of tension and secrecy. As the family confronts external obstacles and internal conflicts, Faulkner probes the nature of familial obligation and the cost of perseverance.

Existential Isolation and Communication

Isolation is a recurring theme throughout the novel. Each character grapples with feelings of loneliness and alienation, often unable to communicate their innermost thoughts effectively. This disconnect underscores the broader existential questions raised by the narrative: How do individuals find meaning in suffering? Can true understanding between people ever be achieved?

Character Analysis: The Bundren Family

An as i lay dying analysis would be incomplete without a closer examination of the key characters, whose distinct voices drive the novel's narrative and thematic concerns.

Anse Bundren: The Patriarch

Anse is often perceived as a stubborn, passive figure whose primary concern is fulfilling Addie's burial wish, but his motivations are open to interpretation. Some critics view him as selfish or ineffectual, while others argue that his desire to uphold family honor reflects deeper cultural values of the rural South.

Darl Bundren: The Sensitive Outsider

Darl's introspective narration stands out for its poetic depth and psychological insight. His increasing detachment from reality and eventual institutionalization raise questions about sanity and perception, making him one of Faulkner's most complex characters.

Jewel Bundren: The Enigmatic Son

Jewel's intense loyalty to his mother and his taciturn nature contrast with his physical strength and determination. His relationship with Addie is marked by ambiguity, suggesting themes of love, guilt, and redemption.

Dewey Dell Bundren: The Silent Struggler

Dewey Dell's internal conflict over her unwanted pregnancy and her struggle for agency highlight issues of gender and power within the family and society at large.

Comparative Analysis: Faulkner and His Contemporaries

In the context of American modernism, as i lay dying analysis often involves comparing Faulkner's narrative techniques with those of contemporaries such as James Joyce and Virginia Woolf. Like Joyce's *Ulysses* and Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, Faulkner's novel employs stream of consciousness to depict the complexity of human thought.

However, Faulkner's Southern Gothic setting and focus on rural poverty distinguish his work thematically and culturally. The Bundrens' journey reflects the socio-economic realities of the American South during the early 20th century, adding a layer of social commentary to the novel's literary experimentation.

Pros and Cons of Faulkner's Narrative Approach

Analyzing the strengths and challenges of Faulkner's style provides a balanced perspective:

- **Pros:**

- Innovative use of multiple perspectives deepens character insight.
- Stream of consciousness captures psychological realism.
- Rich thematic layers invite diverse interpretations.

- **Cons:**

- Fragmented narrative can be challenging to follow for some readers.
- Shifts in narrative voice require careful attention to avoid confusion.
- Dense prose and regional dialects may impede accessibility.

These factors contribute both to the novel's enduring critical acclaim and its reputation as a demanding read.

Legacy and Influence of *As I Lay Dying*

Faulkner's *as i lay dying* analysis also extends to the novel's lasting impact on literature and popular culture. Its narrative innovations influenced subsequent generations of writers exploring consciousness and fragmented storytelling.

The novel has been adapted into films and stage productions, demonstrating its continued relevance and the universality of its themes. Moreover, Faulkner's portrayal of the American South provides valuable insight into regional history and cultural identity.

Exploring *as i lay dying* analysis offers a window into the complexities of human experience—how individuals confront loss, grapple with duty, and seek meaning amid chaos. Faulkner's masterwork remains a testament to the power of narrative experimentation and thematic depth in illuminating the human condition.

[As I Lay Dying Analysis](#)

as i lay dying analysis: As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner (Book Analysis) Bright Summaries, 2019-04-03 Unlock the more straightforward side of *As I Lay Dying* with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner, a novel that brims with many narrative voices that chart the progress of the Bundren family as they journey to a nearby town in rural Mississippi in order to lay their late mother to rest. Each member of the family has their own priorities and ulterior motives, and the novel explores the conflicts between them as they travel, with the dysfunctional unit they form eventually being broken apart when they reach their destination. *As I Lay Dying* is one of the best-known novels by William Faulkner, and is considered an important work within the Modernist movement, as well as a classic example of the Southern Gothic novel. Find out everything you need

to know about *As I Lay Dying* in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

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as i lay dying analysis: As I Lay Dying William Faulkner, 2022-08-01 William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* is a groundbreaking work of Southern Gothic literature that intricately weaves the fragmented perspectives of the Bundren family as they journey to fulfill their matriarch's dying wish. With a distinctive stream-of-consciousness style, Faulkner explores themes of death, identity, and existential despair while employing a rich tapestry of Southern dialects and vivid imagery. Set against the backdrop of rural Mississippi during the Great Depression, the novel delves into the complexities of familial ties and the often unbearable weight of individual desires juxtaposed with societal expectations. Faulkner, a prominent figure in American literature known for his profound exploration of the human psyche, drew from his own Southern heritage and personal struggles to create a narrative that transcends time. His experiences growing up in Mississippi and his keen observations of the human condition emphasize the cultural and existential inquiries central to *As I Lay Dying*. Faulkner's innovative use of multiple narrators allows for a deep examination of character motivations and emotional truths, capturing the fragmented nature of human experience. This novel is essential reading for those interested in the complexities of the human soul and the Southern experience. Faulkner's masterful narrative technique invites readers to engage with the text on a profound level, making *As I Lay Dying* not only a compelling story but also a significant scholarly work worthy of deep analysis. It is a remarkable exploration of life, death, and everything in between that will resonate with readers long after the last page.

as i lay dying analysis: As I Lay Dying William Faulkner, Sparknotes, 2002-07-15 SparkNotes LLC presents a study guide to *As I Lay Dying*, a novel written by the American author William Cuthbert Faulkner (1897-1962). SparkNotes LLC provides a biographical sketch of Faulkner and information about the historical context of the novel. Character descriptions, an overview of the plot, a list of study questions, a bibliography, and critical interpretations of the novel are available. Users require a password to access certain sections of the study guide. Jim Cocola prepared the study guide.

as i lay dying analysis: Vardaman, Anse and Darl in Faulkner's: As I Lay Dying Johanna Andersson, 1998

as i lay dying analysis: A Reader's Guide to William Faulkner Edmond L. Volpe, 2003-02-01 A standard reference work in American literature, this volume is the most complete and detailed guide to the novels of William Faulkner. Edmond L. Volpe's aim is to reveal the greatness of Faulkner's art and the scope and profundity of his personal vision of life. He describes the dominant patterns in the fiction by isolating Faulkner's major themes and by analyzing his narrative techniques and style. He then offers extensive, individual interpretations of the nineteen novels, tracing the development of Faulkner's ideas, and includes a set of genealogical tables for each major family in the novels. Both scholarly and accessible, this unique treatment of Faulkner's novels—from *Soldiers' Pay* to *The Reivers*—helps the reader come to a thorough understanding of a great American writer.

as i lay dying analysis: *Sixteen Modern American Authors* Jackson R. Bryer, 1989 Praise for

the earlier edition: Students of modern American literature have for some years turned to *Fifteen Modern American Authors* (1969) as an indispensable guide to significant scholarship and criticism about twentieth-century American writers. In its new form--*Sixteenth Modern American Authors*--it will continue to be indispensable. If it is not a desk-book for all Americanists, it is a book to be kept in the forefront of the bibliographical compartment of their brains.--American Studies

as i lay dying analysis: William Faulkner John Earl Bassett, 2009 William Faulkner (1897-1962) produced such enduring novels as *The Sound and the Fury*, *Light in August*, and *As I Lay Dying*, as well as many short stories. His works continue to be a source of interest to scholars and students of literature, and the immense amount of criticism about the Nobel-prize winner continues to grow. Bassett provides an annotated listing of commentary in English on William Faulkner since the late 1980s. This volume dedicates its sections to book-length studies of Faulkner, commentaries on individual novels and short works, criticism covering multiple works, biographical and bibliographical sources, and other materials such as book reviews, doctoral dissertations, and brief commentaries. This bibliography provides a list of all significant recent commentary on Faulkner, and the annotations direct readers to those materials of most interest to them. -- From back of book.

as i lay dying analysis: Codes and Consequences Carol Myers-Scotton, 1998 The author explores the implications of the phenomenon known as codeswitching, where in given situations, different people with access to the same linguistic repertoire (or one person in various situations) will make different linguistic choices.

as i lay dying analysis: Wild by Cheryl Strayed - A 15-minute Summary & Analysis Instaread, 2015-01-23 PLEASE NOTE: This is an unofficial summary and analysis of the book and NOT the original book. Wild by Cheryl Strayed - A 15-minute Summary & Analysis Inside this Instaread: • Summary of entire book • Introduction to the Important People in the book • Analysis of the Themes and Author's Style Preview of this Instaread: Wild chronicles Cheryl Strayed's adventure of self-discovery in the wilderness. The book begins thirty-eight days into her three-month odyssey on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Her too-tight boots were destroying her feet. After accidentally knocking one off a mountainside, she tossed the other away. In this way, they become symbols for her former life that hemmed her in. A free spirit, Strayed's mother, Bobbi, raised her kids in a series of cheap apartments, then in a primitive house without running water in the Minnesota woods. Bobbi was so close to Strayed that they went to college together. Strayed's world fell apart when her mother, Bobbi, was diagnosed with lung cancer and died within weeks. In her grief, Strayed pulled away from her sister, brother, stepfather, and husband, Paul. Without her mother, she was not sure who she was. Nearly five years after Bobbi's death, Strayed's life had become increasingly unhappy....

as i lay dying analysis: Student Companion to William Faulkner John Dennis Anderson, 2007-09-30 One of America's greatest writers, William Faulkner wrote fiction that combined spellbinding Southern storytelling with modernist formal experimentation to shape an enduring body of work. In his fictional Yoknapatawpha County—based on the region around his hometown of Oxford, Mississippi—he created an entire world peopled with unforgettable characters linked into an intricate historical and social web. An introduction to the Nobel-Prize-winning author's life and work, this book devotes opening chapters to his biography and literary heritage and subsequent chapters to each of his major works. The analytical chapters start with his most accessible book, *The Unvanquished*, a Civil-War-era account of a boy's coming of age. The following chapters orient readers to elements of plot, character, and theme in Faulkner's masterpieces: *The Sound and the Fury*, *As I Lay Dying*, *Light in August*, and *Absalom, Absalom!* Also analyzed and discussed are some of Faulkner's most often anthologized short stories, including *A Rose For Emily* and *Barn Burning*, and the longer stories *The Bear*, *Spotted Horses*, and *The Old Man* that were incorporated in the novels *Go Down, Moses*, *The Hamlet*, and *If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem*. Clear, insightful analyses of the elements of Faulkner's fiction are supplemented with alternative readings from a variety of critical approaches including gender, rhetorical, performance, and cultural studies perspectives.

as i lay dying analysis: Modes of Composition and the Durability of Style in Literature

David L. Hoover, 2020-11-29 *Modes of Composition and the Durability of Style* employs the tools and methods of computational stylistics to show that style is extremely resistant to changes in how texts are produced. Addressing an array of canonical writers, including William Faulkner, Joseph Conrad, Thomas Hardy, and Henry James, along with popular contemporary writers like Stephen King and Ian McEwan, this volume presents a systematic study of changes in mode of composition and writing technologies. Computational analysis of texts produced in multiple circumstances of composition, such as dictation, handwriting, typewriting, word processing, and translation, reveals the extraordinary durability of authorial style. *Modes of Composition and the Durability of Style in Literature* will be essential for readers interested in exploring the rapidly expanding field of digital approaches to literature.

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brothers' inner thought processes in a style that has been hailed as a landmark in the use of stream-of-consciousness as a narrative device. *The Sound and the Fury* is arguably William Faulkner's best-known work, and is considered an important work within the Modernist movement, as well as a classic example of the Southern Gothic novel. Find out everything you need to know about *The Sound and the Fury* in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

as i lay dying analysis: *Faulkner and ideology* Donald M. Kartiganer, Ann J. Abadie, 1995 Dare to enter the House of Night with the next four titles of the series (following UNTAMED), collected in a beautifully designed boxed set With more than 12 million books in print, rights sold in almost 40 countries, and over two years on the New York Times bestseller list (reaching as high as #1), the House of Night series by PC and Kristin Cast is an international publishing sensation. The series follows 16-year-old Zoey Redbird as she is "Marked" by a vampyre tracker and begins to undergo the "Change" into an actual vampyre. She has to leave her family and move into the House of Night in Tulsa, OK, a boarding school for other fledgling vampyres like her. It's tough to begin a new life, away from her parents and friends, and on top of that, Zoey finds she is no average fledgling. She has been Marked as special by the vampyre Goddess, Nyx. Although Zoey has awesome new powers, it's hard to fit in when everyone knows you're "special." As Zoey tries to make new friends and maybe find a hot boyfriend (or two), she comes up against all kinds of evil, from the perfect-looking, super-popular girl with not-so-faultless plans, to the mysterious deaths happening at the House of Night and all over Tulsa. Things at the House of Night are not always what they seem. Can Zoey find the courage deep within herself to find the truth and embrace her destiny?

as i lay dying analysis: *A Companion to Faulkner Studies* Charles Peek, Robert W. Hamblin, 2004-06-30 Faulkner scholarship is one of the largest critical enterprises currently at work. Because of its size and scope, accessing that scholarship has become difficult for scholars, students, and general readers alike. This reference includes chapters on individual approaches to Faulkner studies, including archetypal, historical, biographical, feminist, and psychological criticism, among others. Each chapter is written by an expert contributor and surveys the contributions of that approach to Faulkner scholarship. The volume concludes with a selected, general bibliography and glossary of critical terms. William Faulkner is one of the most widely read and studied American writers. His works have also generated a vast body of scholarship and elicited criticism from a wide range of approaches. Because of its size, scope, and diversity, accessing that scholarship has become difficult for scholars, students, and general readers alike. This reference comprehensively overviews the present state of Faulkner studies. The volume includes chapters written by expert contributors. Each chapter defines a particular critical approach and surveys the contributions of that approach to Faulkner studies. Some of the approaches covered are archetypal, biographical, feminist, historical, and psychological, among others. The book closes with a selected, general bibliography and glossary of critical terms.

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territory of female suffering and aspiration that has been largely ignored in literary histories. In opposition to the belief that women's lives, and dreams, are bound up in ideas of community and pre-contractual forms of relationality, Ladd demonstrates that all three writers -- Faulkner in *As I Lay Dying*, Welty in selected short stories and in *The Golden Apples*, and Hurston in *Tell My Horse* -- place women in territories where community is threatened or nonexistent and new opportunities for self-definition can be seized. And in *A Fable*, Faulkner undertakes a related project in his exploration of gender and history in an era of world war, focusing on men, mourning, and resistance and on the insurgences of the masses -- the feminized others of history -- in order to rethink authorship and resistance for a totalitarian age. Filled with insights and written with obvious passion for the subject, *Resisting History* challenges received ideas about history as a coherent narrative and about the development of U.S. modernism and points the way to new histories of literary and cultural modernisms in which the work of women shares center stage with the work of men.

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