The Sound and the Fury
William Faulkner

- Title Source:

Macbeth:
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

*What is Macbeth trying to say?
Structure of the Novel

• Four Narrators:
  – Benjy Compson
  – Quentin Compson
  – Jason Compson
  – 3rd Person Omniscient

*Who is not a narrator?
-Caddy Compson

*What is the significance of this?
Structure of the Novel

- This novel tells a complete story, but in a fractured manner.
- Your job is to assemble the pieces of the story into a recognizable form.
Style

- Stream of Consciousness – The 1st three narrators tell the story using this method. SoC is a type of narration that goes inside the mind of a character and reveals thoughts and sensory impressions but not arranged in an orderly fashion. Thoughts are frequently incomplete, descriptions are impressionistic (details and mental associations evoke subjective and sensory impressions rather than objective reality).
- Only narration style that tries to replicate the “life” we live inside our heads.
The Process

As You Read:

• Write down the names of characters (leave plenty of room between names)

• Fill in information on these characters (make guesses – you will be wrong sometimes and have to go back and change things)

• Try to temporally keep track of scenes (the opening scene is Saturday, 4/7/1928)
Other Points to Consider:

• This novel basically tells the story of a family’s history. This history is essentially the history of the *Reconstructed* South writ small.

• **How** the story is told is as important as the story itself. What does this statement mean?
And So We Begin...

As we are reading this complicated and challenging novel, Faulkner is going to be chillin’, catching some rays, and smoking his pipe because he is so confident that we will enjoy the experience.
But First…

• To get us into puzzle mode…

• [http://crosswords.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/crosswords/daily/front.htm](http://crosswords.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/crosswords/daily/front.htm)

• [Crossword Puzzle](http://crosswords.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/crosswords/daily/front.htm)