

### Answers from Class Discussion

1. Why weren't there suitable suitors for Emily?  
**Her domineering father scared them all away**
2. How does Emily respond to being denied suitors?  
**She seems to be obedient to her father. She does not secretly sneak off with boys or object to her father's protection (that we know of), but she is likely very sad about not having suitors.**
3. Why does Emily take up with Homer Barron?  
**He is the first person she is able to take up with—she could not take up with any suitors until her father died.**
4. What happened when he left? Did he abandon her? Why did he come back?  
**There are many possibilities: He could have another lover somewhere, he could be a homosexual, he might truly be getting prepared for a wedding. All of your ideas were interesting and supported by valid evidence.**
5. Why did she kill him?  
**So she could feel like a bride forever. So Homer wouldn't abandon her. So she could stop time and hold on to a good moment in her life forever.**
6. Why did the smell disappear after only one week?  
**Once she realized the neighbors were noticing the smell, she probably took care of it by moving the body upstairs and boarding up the room.**
7. What did Miss Emily think of the men scattering lime around her house?  
**She doesn't like people knowing her business. She probably did not want them near her house and was worried they might find out about the dead body in her house.**
8. How did the hair come to be on the pillow? How much hair is a strand?  
**She was lying next to the corpse. A strand is one piece of hair.**
9. What was her relationship to Tobe?  
**This is ambiguous. She could have treated him very poorly because of his race and social position, or as her only fiend, or possibly even a secret lover.**
10. Did she lie beside the corpse? How often, for what period of years?  
**Probably every night since she brought Homer's body up to the room.**
11. Why did she not leave the house for the last decade of her life?  
**She didn't want to face reality. Doesn't like how community treats her and talks about her. Doesn't like change. People tend to stay in their houses more as they grow old. We also know that she was sick.**
12. Did she not know Colonel Sartoris had been dead ten years when she faced down the Aldermen?  
**Either answer is possible.**
13. How crazy was she (unable to distinguish fantasy from reality)?  
**Her great-aunt, Wyatt, went completely crazy, and Emily suffered some emotional abuse from her father and community.**
14. Why does she allow so much dust in her house?  
**Holding on to the past. Doesn't have energy or will to keep her surroundings lively and clean.**
15. Which of these questions occurred to you? What would you add to this list?

16. At what points did you notice any foreshadowing of the ending? Did the story prepare you to expect something different from Miss Emily?  
**Some clues/foreshadowing: Smell, poison, Homer disappearing, not leaving the house, boarding up the top room, etc.**
17. This story is told by "we": who do you imagine this narrator (or narrators) to be? Young or old? Male or female? Both? What is their attitude toward Emily? How is this represented by their calling her "Miss Emily"? What do they remember about her? How does this shape your attitude toward her? Do you find yourself sympathizing with her situation as the center of the town's attention (and gossip)?  
**Narrator represents voices of the community—the local town talk or stories passed on about the event. Miss puts emphasis on the fact that she is unmarried.**
18. Women of the Old South and of a "good family" were often put on pedestals as paragons of virtue and respectability and given special treatment as "ladies." How do you see these attitudes at work in this story? How have they shaped Miss Emily's life and how people view her? Why is she called a "fallen monument" in the first paragraph?  
**Judge Stevens says, "Dammit, sir, will you accuse a lady to her face of smelling bad?" She is permitted to not pay her taxes. She represents the "Old South."**
19. What does the title tell you about the story? Why is it not called "A Rose for Miss Emily"?  
**"A Rose For Emily" sounds like the title of a love story. Putting "Miss" in front of her name might give the ending away or lessen the shock of the ending. Also, the author might be suggesting the her marriage status is not the most important thing about Emily though the rest of the community makes her feel that way.**