

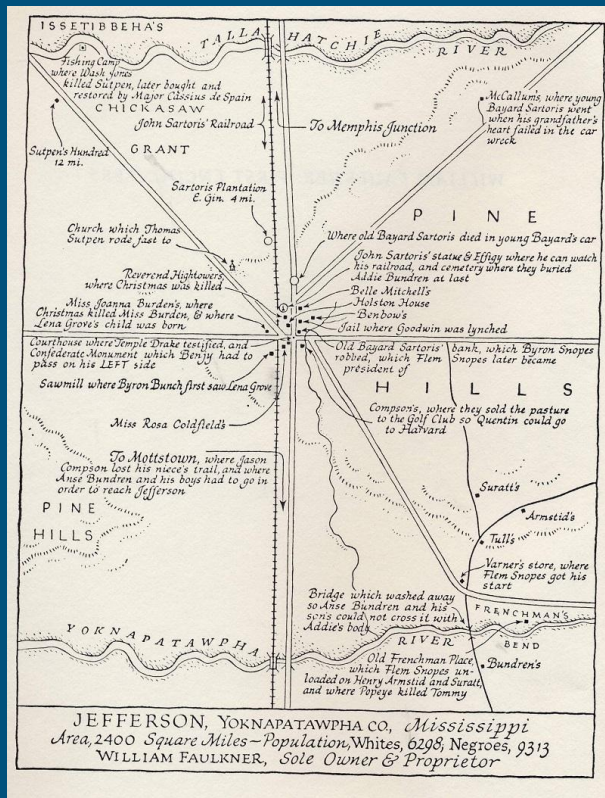
A Meandering Reversal: Locating Quentin Compson's Death within William Faulkner's Early Career & the Southern Landscape

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ENG 333: Major Figures, William Faulkner
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Festival of Scholars • April 15, 2016

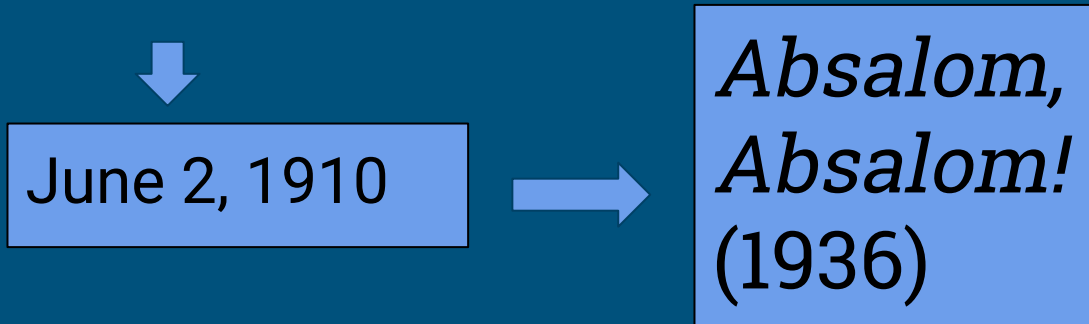
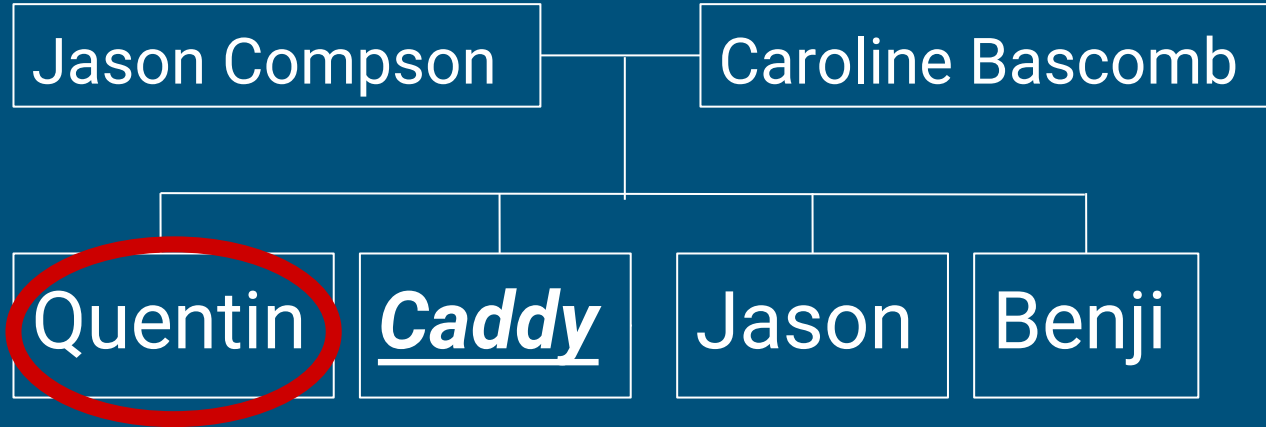
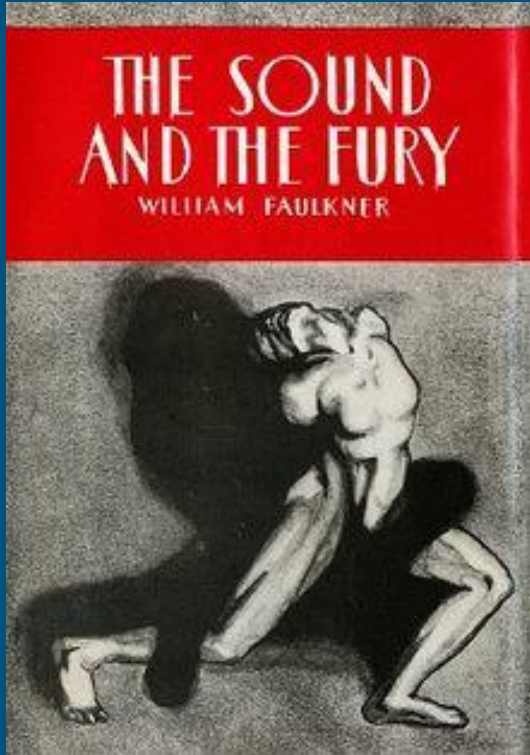
The Texts

- “Nympholepsy” (1925)
- *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)
- *Absalom, Absalom!* (1936)

Yoknapatawpha County



The Sound and the Fury (1929)



Why does Quentin Compson drown himself?

“Nympholepsy” → *The Sound and the Fury* ← *Absalom, Absalom!*

Forward
Explanation
(internal)

Backward
Explanation
(external)

“Nympholepsy” (1925) (*Uncollected Stories*)

“Then the water took him. But here was something more than water... But here beneath his hand a startled thigh slid like a snake, among the dark bubbles he felt a swift leg; and sinking, the point of a breast scraped his back. Amid the slow commotion of disturbed water, he saw death like a woman, shining and drowning and waiting, saw a flashing body tortured by water...” (N 335)

The Sound and the Fury (1929)

“she was lying in the water her head on the sand spit the water flowing about her hips there was a little more light in the water her skirt half saturated flopped along her flanks to the waters motion in heavy ripples going nowhere renewed themselves of their own movement” (*SF* 149)

The Sound and the Fury (1929)

“a drowned man’s shadow was watching for him in the water all the time. It twinkled and glinted, like breathing... and debris half submerged, heaving out to the sea and the caverns and the grottoes of the sea.” (*SF* 90)

Absalom, Absalom! (1929)

“...a sort of geographical transubstantiation by that Continental Trough, that River which runs not only through the physical land of which it is the geologic umbilical, not only runs through the spiritual lives of the beings within its scope, but is the very Environment itself which laughs at degrees of latitude and temperature...” (*AA!* 208).

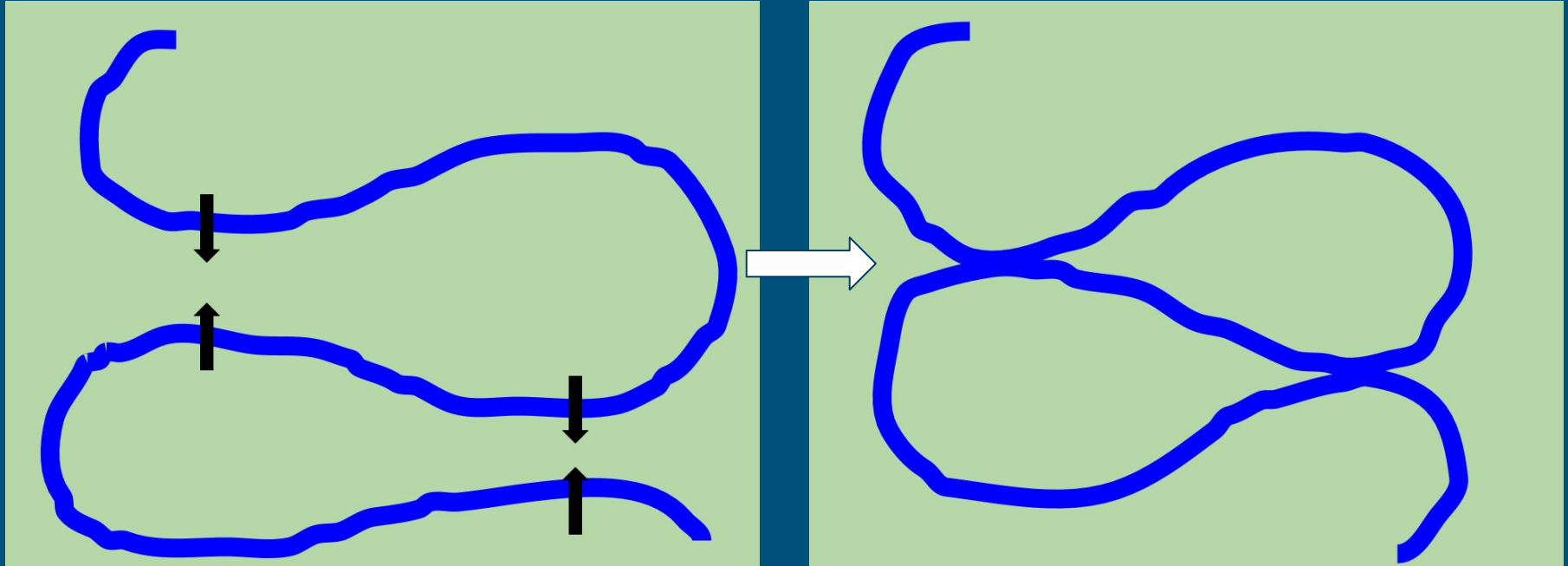
Absalom, Absalom! (1936)

“Maybe nothing ever happens once and is finished. Maybe happen is never once but like ripples maybe on water after the pebble sinks, the ripples moving on, spreading, the pool attached by a narrow umbilical water-cord to the next pool which the first pool feeds, has fed...” (AA! 210, italics in original)

Mississippi River: The Mississippi Delta



Meanders of the Mississippi River



Meandering Course of Faulkner's Career Along the Mississippi River

