

You should now have a map of Yoknapatawpha County indicating the Bundrens' journey from their farm in the southeast part of the county to Jefferson in the center. If you want more information about Faulkner's mythical county, you'll find lots of maps and discussions

Last week we discussed date—the action occurs in the late 1920s, probably July 1928, and the action covers a little more than nine days. Addie lies three days in the finished coffin (upstairs in her room) waiting for Jewel and Darl to return. On the way to Jefferson, the Bundrens follow a circuitous route because of washed-out bridges and high water; they spend the night in the barns of various neighbors; Anse always finagles lodging and board and help, saying he can't accept a proffered loan (cannot be beholden), until the neighbor simply gives Anse whatever he needs rather than continue the pretense of loan with possible repayment.

The children: **Cash**, the carpenter, a perfectionist, long-suffering, already lame from falling off a church when the novel opens, the son Anse has deprived of music, about 31. **Darl**, the visionary(?), a near-poet sensitive to others' feelings and motives, the character who speaks most in the novel, perhaps a veteran of World War I suffering from shell shock, about 28. **Jewel**, the passionate, silent, violent knight, the rescuer, the son Anse has deprived of his horse, Addie's son by the Rev. Mr. Whitfield, about 20. **Dewey Dell**, the sole daughter, frantic about her unwanted pregnancy by Lame, the farmworker, the child Anse will deprive of her only \$10 (given by Lame for the abortion), about 17. **Vardaman**, the wide-eyed boy confused about life and death, human being and animal, sound and silence, the boy promised a train, about 10.

When Cora, Peabody, others look into Addie's eyes, what do they see?

Describe Addie and the room she dies in. How long has Addie been ailing and dying? Who is with her when she dies? How do these persons react immediately to her death: Dewey Dell, Peabody, Vardaman, Anse, Cash?

Describe the supper immediately after Addie dies—the diners, the food, the absent. Where is Vardaman? Where are Darl and Jewel? Where is Dewey Dell?

Early in their journey with the mule and wagon, Darl and Jewel encounter the storm. On the bottom part of p. 48, what is yellow, and what is the significance of yellow?

How does Darl know when Addie dies? At the end of the penultimate paragraph on p. 51, what does Anse realize? What is that recognition reveal about him?

Fish and not-fish. Is and was. My mother is a fish. Jewel's mother is a horse— what do these concerns with words and tenses and symbols mean for the characters?

Why does Vardaman beat Peabody's team and drive them off? Then, where does Vardaman go? Why?

Read the description of Anse on the bottom of p 58. What do you see?

On the whole, how does Vernon Tull regard the Bundrens collectively and individually? How can we tell?

Describe the cow, how the cow and the Bundren characters interact, what the cow represents.

Ultimately what happens to Vardaman's fish? How does he react?

What is a "misdoubtful night"? What is Cora's "Christian duty"? How does Vernon Tull regard her Christian duty? What does he mean (top of p. 68), by saying, "I am blessed in having a wife that ever strives for sanctity and well-doing like she says I am." What does he mean here, "And when I think about that, I think that if nothing but being married will help a man, he's durn nigh hopeless" (p 68)? According to Tull, what is Addie Bundren's "reward"?

When exactly did Cash finish the coffin? How did he work in the dark? In the rain? Who helped him? Who got in the way?

What four men carried the coffin up to Addie's room? What four carried it down to the wagon three days later?

Darl says (p 76), "How often have I lain beneath rain on a strange roof, thinking of home." What does he mean?

What does Cash's list (pp. 77-78) reveal about him? How far did Cash fall off the church?

What does Vardaman's statement (p. 79) reveal about him?

Tull describes the gathering for Addie's "funeral." How does Anse look? Who attends? How do the women behave? The men? Who preaches the funeral? They all know it would be easier to bury Addie by the New Hope church than to take her all the way to Jefferson. What overt reason does Anse give? Wat

covert reasons may influence the decision? What is ironic about “New Hope”? Where does the Rev. Mr. Whitfield preach usually?

See bottom of p. 86: what do we learn here from Tull? Once the Bundren’s cross Samson’s bridge, how far are they from Jefferson?

What do we learn about Jewel from Darl on pp. 88-89? How is Jewel like a medieval knight?

See pp. 90-91: what are they trying to do? How does Cash want it done? How does Jewel want it done? How does Darl want it done? Why is this action so difficult for them and Anse?

Why is Dewey Dell hopeful about this journey? Why is Vardaman hopeful? Why is Anse hopeful? What does this journey mean initially for Cash, Darl, Jewel?

Why does Anse keep talking about how someone or other (though never Anse himself) is “flouting . . . the dead”?