

Sequence/Structure “A Rose for Emily”

Faulkner often rearranges the **sequence** of events in his fiction, using **flashbacks** to offer a window into a character’s past or dropping hints that **foreshadow** what is yet to come. In the left column, record the story’s events as you read about them. When you finish the story, rearrange the events in chronological order.

Dramatic Structure	Order in which narrator reveals events	My commentary on the chronological order in which events actually occur. You need to use transitional words to make sense out of the confusing story line.
<p>I Exposition of setting, characters, and nature of conflict</p> <p>A lady named Emily Grierson died.</p>	<p>“When Miss Emily Grierson died . . .</p> <p>“It was a big, squarish frame house . . .</p> <p>.”</p> <p>“Alive, Miss Emily had been a tradition . . .</p> <p>“When the next generation . . . became . . .</p> <p>“They called a special meeting . . .</p> <p>“They rose when she entered . . .</p>	<p><i>This is very close to the present and the townfolks are interested in the mansion in which Miss Grierson has lived alone until her death.</i></p> <p><i>After her father died and her lover left her, Miss Grierson had no income to pay her taxes and insisted that she had a tax waiver.</i></p>
<p>II Rising action</p> <p>“The plot thickens.”</p> <p>Miss Grierson was isolated.</p>	<p>13-14: backstory of father’s death and lover’s departure</p> <p>15-23: there was a peculiar smell emitting from Miss Grierson’s mansion.</p> <p>24: townfolks felt sorry for Miss Grierson.</p> <p>25-27: Miss Grierson reacted very strangely toward her father’s death.</p>	
<p>III Climax</p> <p>Love and killing</p>	<p>28: her father passed away.</p> <p>29-32: scandalous love affair with Homer Barron</p> <p>33-41: Miss Grierson purchased arsenic.</p>	
<p>IV Falling action</p> <p>Miss Grierson is getting older.</p>	<p>42: Homer Barron’s shady character</p> <p>43-44: townfolks were concerned about her</p> <p>45: Homer Barron left</p> <p>46-50: Miss Grierson slowly declined.</p>	

	51-53: She was dead.	
V Denouement The revelation	54: the cook disappeared. 55: distant cousins came to the funeral. 56-60: after the funeral, townsfolks entered the second-floor bedroom.	<i>Miss Emily dies at seventy-four years old. Tobe leaves the house two days later the funeral is held at the Grierson house. After the funeral, the townspeople break down the door to the bridal chamber/crypt, which no one has seen in forty years.</i>

How is the short story structured and what is the effect of the non-linear storyline? Why does Faulkner choose to write the short story out of sequence?

This following exercise will prepare you for the annotation assignment, so please complete this activity today. Identify some Gothic elements and discuss how they contribute to the overall mood AND theme of the story.
