

Discussion Questions for “A Rose for Emily,” and “The Rocking Horse Winner”

1. What would you define as the primary sin of Miss Emily in “A Rose for Emily”?
2. Why does the pharmacist give Emily the bottle of poison without questioning her? Why does the Mayor, Colonel Sartoris do the same thing? Is it because they pity her, or is it because they are afraid of her?
3. Was the ending of the short story effective, why or why not?
4. Paul said that he kept one secret from his uncle and Bassett. He later confessed that the secret was his rocking horse. Is this the only secret that Paul kept from his uncle and Bassett?
5. Paul’s mother defines luck as something that “causes you to have money.” Is this a good definition of luck, or is there a better definition for luck?
6. What is it that causes Paul’s mother to feel no love? Is it the same thing that causes the house to whisper?
7. What is the primary sin of Paul’s mother?
8. What or who is responsible for coming up with the winners for the races?