Study Guide: “A Rose for Emily” by William Faulkner (text p. 860) Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Define the following terms (p. 861):

1. conflict:

internal conflict:

external conflict:

2. ambiguity:

Part I (pages 862-864)

1. The story begins with the death of whom?
2. How long had it been since any of the townspeople had seen the inside of the house?
3. Over the years what had happened to Miss Emily’s neighborhood?
4. Long ago what had the mayor, Colonel Sartoris, done about Miss Emily’s taxes? Why did he do this?
5. How did the “next generation” of town politicians (mayors and aldermen) feel about this arrangement? What did they do?
6. Describe Miss Emily.
7. How did she treat the men who came to visit? What did she say to them?

Part II (pages 865 -866)

1. The first sentence of this section lets the reader know it will be a flashback. How do you know?
2. The “smell” mentioned in this section was how long after her father’s death? What else happened in Emily’s life around this time?
3. Who complained about the smell?
4. Why doesn’t the judge want to confront Miss Emily? What did the group of men decide to do instead?
5. Did Miss Emily know what the men were doing? How do you know?
6. The story goes back in time again, to the time right before Emily’s father died. Describe their relationship? Why wasn’t she married?
7. How did Emily react when her father died? How long did she keep the townspeople out?

Part III (pages 866 – 870)

1. How had Emily changed her appearance after her father died?
2. When did the workers come to pave the sidewalks?
3. Who is Homer Barron? From where does he come? What does he have to do with Miss Emily?
4. Some of the older townspeople are upset about Homer and Miss Emily. Why?
5. Does Emily seem to care what the community thinks?
6. How much time elapsed between the time the old people said “Poor Emily” and Emily bought the arsenic?
7. Who was visiting at the time she bought the arsenic?
8. What does the druggist need Miss Emily to tell him when she buys the poison? What is her response?
9. What does the druggist put on the package?

Part IV (pages 870 – 872)

1. What does the town suspect Miss Emily will do?
2. What had Homer said about himself?
3. What concern did some of the ladies have about how Miss Emily was acting?
4. What happened to the Baptist ministers who came “to call upon her”?
5. What did the minister’s wife do?
6. Shortly after “the relations” (two female cousins) got there, the town thought Emily and Homer were to be married. What things did Emily buy that gave that impression?
7. Did the townspeople like Emily’s relations?
8. What happened to Homer? What did the townspeople suspect?
9. Who came back after the cousins left? Bout how much time had passed?
10. Did anyone ever see Homer again?
11. Where and when did people see Emily again? How much time passed before she was “on the streets again”? (page 871-872)
12. Describe Emily when the town saw her again.
13. How old was Emily when she died?
14. What did Emily do for several years when she was about 40?
15. Did she ever start paying taxes?
16. What did the townspeople notice about the second story of her house? What did they assume?

Part V (pages 873-874)

1. What did Toby (the servant) do after letting the ladies of the town in the house?
2. How long had it been since anyone had seen the room upstairs?
3. What did they find in that room?
4. What does the iron-gray hair on the pillow tell you?