

As i lay dying

Literature



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

appears here] appears here] appears here] appears here] As I Lay Dying In "As I Lay Dying" Faulkner built on a tradition started by modernist writers such as James Joyce and Virginia Woolf. Faulkner used stream-of-consciousness plot to search awareness as well as thought as the basis of experience. Objective actuality does not exist in As I Lay Dying; we have merely the highly subjective interior monologues of 15 different narrators. Darl, who comes into view early as the novel's vital narrator, is expressive but considered strange by his family and neighbors. He finishes up being put into an asylum, with his older brother Cash mulling over definition of "insane." Appraising "truth" turns out to be an equally tricky enterprise, with Faulkner portraying a truth as mutable and vicious as the river the Bundrens cross midway through the novel.

The structure of As I Lay Dying is influential and ground-breaking. Fifteen tellers of tales alternate, delivering interior monologues with changeable degrees of coherence and emotional intensity. The language is powerful and extremely subjective, with an identifiable change in language depending on the narrator. Every section falls somewhere in the series from confessional to stream-of-consciousness.

The narrative emerges fragmentary; however the story shows marvelous unity: it is restricted to the span of a few days; also the different sub-plots are understandably and competently interwoven. Faulkner's novelty is in how we see this incorporated set of events: we are mandated to look at the story from a number of different views, each of which is extremely subjective.

"As I Lay Dying" notifies us with a far greater variety of voices. The voices are more numerous as well as more ambiguous. Among Faulkner's

accomplishments, in this novel and elsewhere, was the depiction of the dialect of the South into poetic literary language. The Bundrens live in Faulkner's illusory community of Yoknapatawpha County, a setting used in several of his novels, and they are among the poorest characters in all of Faulkner's work. And so far Darl is one of Faulkner's most eloquent and poetic creations. His obliteration has a tragic depth and self-respect.

Faulkner portrays the beleaguered and impecunious Bundrens with empathy and loveliness, even though he never romanticizes them, nor does he shy away from portraying their ignorance and failings. His portrayal here of poverty and rural people is among the most rich and encrusted representations in all of literature. (Donald M. Kartiganer, 1979)

Thus the narrative method of Faulkner is that he tells the story through his characters by providing them each short sections all through the story in which they are the narrators. This method, which is named "stream of consciousness", serves lots of purposes. First, it forces the readers to turn out to be more involved in the story for the reason that they must make their own assumptions as well as conclusions founded on what is provided by each character. He as well permits the readers to see into the minds of every character, determining for them what kind of person they really are. Since Faulkner does not interpose his own views, the reader is merely subjected to the opinions of the characters concerning themselves and each other.

One more purpose of this method is to permit the reader to see events from the diverse views of the characters. This way the reader can take out from the different narratives the information to outline an unbiased view on the actual event. The author as well includes narrations from characters that are not part of the Bundren family to provide the reader objective views for the

Bundrens as well as their journey. These outside narrators are mainly incorporated to remind the reader that the Bundrens are not normal people also to provide a clue of reality.

Bibliography

Donald M. Kartiganer, 1979. *The Fragile Thread: The Meaning of Form in Faulkner's Novels*; University of Massachusetts Press, pp 123-127