IB English

A Rose for Emily Prompts

Prompt 1:
How is Miss Emily “a fallen monument” (para 1)? To what is she a monument? Why does the narrator repeatedly call an Emily an “idol”? What connection can you draw between these images and one of the story’s themes? Discuss with fully developed details from the text. Direct textual quotes required.

Prompt 2:

NOTES: **Feminist literary criticism** can be understood as using feminist principles and ideological discourses to critique the language of literature, its structure and being. This school of thought seeks to describe and analyze the ways in which literature reinforces the narrative of male domination in regard to female bodies by exploring the economic, social, political, and psychological forces embedded within literature (*from Wikipedia*).

In Faulkner's, *A Rose for Emily*, there are elements of feminist criticism with respect to Emily's character and the narrator. Discuss the implications of this type of critique upon these two characters with fully developed details from the text. Direct textual quotes required.

Prompt 3:

NOTES: New Criticism: The author cannot be reconstructed from writing - the text is the only source of meaning, and any details of the author's desires or life are purely extraneous. Such thinking essentially states that the author's intended meaning and purpose for the exposition are fundamentally unnecessary to the reader's interpretation.

In an interview, Faulkner described the conflict of Miss Emily: she "had broken all the laws of her tradition, her background, and she had finally broken the law of God too… And she knew she was doing wrong, and that's why her own life was wrecked." According to New Criticism, authorial intent is irrelevant, that only what is in the text is applicable, so just because Faulkner himself said this about his own piece doesn't make it correct. So, do you agree or disagree with his interpretation? Why or Why not? Discuss with fully developed details from the text. Direct textual quotes required.

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