West Forsyth Major Works Data Sheet

AP Literature and Composition Class Period: 1B

Title of Work: The Sound and the Fury

Author: William Faulkner Date of Publication: 1929

Genre: Modernism, Regionalism

Characteristics of the Genre:

The two genres that the book fits into are Modernism and Regionalism.

Modernism: Modernism was at its peak during the early $20^{\rm th}$ century. Major general features of modernist literature include the following: absence of chronological narration, narrative fragmentation, multiple narrators, streams of consciousness, focus on form rather than meaning, experimentation, and focus on character consciousness.

Regionalism as a genre has properties that you can pull from the name. Regionalist fiction focuses on a particular physical region, has types of characters that live in that region, and pulls from the history and culture of that region. Aside from that, there is usually a knowledgeable, removed narrator that bridges certain story gaps between the region and the reading audience.

Historical Information about the Period of Publication:

The novel was published in 1929. In 1929, Herbert Hoover became the president. The economy that year is also the worst out of all. It was a time period when the Great Depression took place which started from the Wall Street Crash. The novel portraits the downfall of the family after the civil war. It symbolizes the downfall of the economy in the year of 1929, which leads to the Great Depression.

Biographical Information about the Author:

Born into a traditional southern family in the south, Faulkner creates fictional scenarios and characters based off of his youth. Faulkner later was active in the British Royal Air Force during WWI, due to the fact that he did not meet the requirements for the US Air Force. He also was not the greatest in school. Having quit in the 10th grade he was not as educated as other author's of his time. Rather than go by the styles laid forth by those like Byron or Hugo of the Romantics era, Faulkner was part of the Realism movement which concentrated on the common events and reality of a culture. Faulkner achieves his style of realism by incorporating his fictional society (Yoknapatawpha county) in with a predominant style of writing. This could be contributed to by his moody and puzzling personality.