



Faulkner's "Colored Ink" Exercise

Student Name _____ Date _____

Instructions for students: Review the following passage (you should already have read at least past this section of the novel prior to this exercise). Faulkner once said that he would like to use colored ink to detail different shifts of time and thought in *The Sound and the Fury*, particularly for Benjy's section. Read the passage, taken from the [hypertext version of *The Sound and the Fury*](http://www.usask.ca/english/faulkner/) (<http://www.usask.ca/english/faulkner/>), available through the EDSITEMent reviewed Internet Public Library (the text corresponds to text from page 11 of the Norton Critical Edition, 2nd edition). Note any words or ideas that don't make sense to you. Then, using highlighters (if you are working on printed paper), or the Highlighter Tool if you choose to copy the text to a word processing program, "color" the text in a manner that you think shows shifts in Benjy's perception of time, memory, or ideas. Once you are done, answer the questions that follow, explaining your choice by using evidence from the text.

"I is done it. Hush, now." Luster said. "Aint I told you cant go up there. They'll knock your head clean off with one of them balls. Come on, here." He pulled me back. "Sit down." I sat down and he took off my shoes and rolled up my trousers. "Now, git in that water and play and see can you stop that slobbering and moaning."

I hushed and got in the water and Roskus came and said to come to supper and Caddy said,

It's not supper time yet. I'm not going.

She was wet. We were playing in the branch and Caddy squatted down and got her dress wet and Versh said,

"Your mommer going to whip you for getting your dress wet."

"She's not going to do any such thing." Caddy said.

Questions

Who are the characters in this section? What are their relationships?

The chapter heading is April Seventh, 1928 - is there a part of the passage above that could be considered this date (Benjy's "present")? If so, what are some indications of this?

Does this passage represent "linear time" (meaning, in a progression from one earlier moment to one later moment)?

How many historical moments or memories do you think Benjy is living (or reliving) in this short passage? How many did you mark with different colors? Explain your choices.