Character Chart for “Faulkner Fan Fiction” Assignment

Your mission: Complete the chart below for a character of your choice from William Faulkner’s “Barn Burning.” Do not pick Sarty Snopes (the central character of the story). Fill in all blanks.

Completion of the chart requires a thorough reading of “Barn Burning,” some research on Digital Yoknapatawpha (DY) and other sites, as well as a vivid imagination.

When you begin completing the character chart below, find as much character information as you can from the story and the DY site. Depending on the character you select, you may or may not find much information about the character using the story or the site. Complete what you can with the information you have. Mark the information you find on the DY with a DY next to it.

Then, use your imagination to complete the remaining blanks on the character chart.

**Instructions for Exploring Digital Yoknapatawpha:**

1. First, visitDigital Yoknapatawpha <https://faulkner.iath.virginia.edu/>
2. Next, select “Barn Burning” from the list of Faulkner’s body of work (see book icons on home page).
3. Once you’ve selected “Barn Burning,” you will be on a page with a map of the story you selected (in this case “Barn Burning”).
4. On the left-hand side of the page is a box labeled “Display Controls.” Select “All” or “Major and Secondary” under “Show Characters.”
5. Slide your cursor over the characters on the map until you find your chosen character; or, click the “Alphabetic List” box under “Show Characters.” A new box with an alphabetical list of characters from the story appears. Find your chosen character and check their name and click “Show” at the bottom of the box. The character will appear on the map.
6. Click on your chosen character. An informational box will open with the following tabs: Biography, Information, Events, Location. Use the information from this box to **complete the questions on the attached character chart. If you can’t find it on DY, make it up.**

**“Barn Burning” Character Chart**

**Fill in All Blanks**

1. Character Name (if the character is unnamed, create an appropriate name for the character. List both Faulkner’s name for the character and your name for the character):

Faulkner’s name for the character:

The name you’re giving the character (only if originally unnamed):

Reason or meaning of name:

Nickname (you may need to create the nickname):

Reason for nickname:

Date & Place of Character’s Birth:

1. Physical Description:

How old does s/he appear?

Eye Color:

Glasses or contacts:

Weight:

Height:

Type of body/build:

Distinguishing Marks(scars, moles, etc):

Predominant feature:

Is s/he healthy?

If not, why not:

1. Citizenship/Ethnic Origin:
2. Family Relationships:

Mother:

Relationship with her:

Father:

Relationship with him:

Siblings:

How many?

Birth order:

Relationship with each:

1. Sexual Orientation/Experience/Values:

Spouse or Lover:

1. Level of Education Obtained (explain):
2. Occupation/Employer:

Salary:

1. Political Beliefs/Affiliations:
2. Hobbies/Recreations:
3. Smokes:

What? When and how much?

Drinks:

What? When and how much?

1. Favorite Music:

Least favorite Music:

Why?

1. Ambitions (What does the character want out of life?):
2. Fears/Anxieties/Hangups:
3. WHAT IS YOUR PROTAGONIST’S **CONCRETE** DESIRE IN THIS SCENE? (Stay away from abstractions like love, beauty, respect, etc. Be as concrete as possible.)
4. Event and Location of Character in Story:

**Instructions for finding an event/scene in “Barn Burning”**

Select one event/scene from “Barn Burning” in which your character appears. This will be the scene you will later re-vision when you write from your chosen character’s point of view. Then, research the scene. To do this:

1. Select a scene from the story where your chosen character exists.
2. Return to the “Barn Burning” map inDigital Yoknapatawpha <https://faulkner.iath.virginia.edu/>
3. On the left-hand side of the page is a box labeled “Display Controls.” Select “Event Locations”
4. Click on the locations on the map until you find an event your character is in.
5. An informational box will open with the following tabs: Biography, Information, Events, Location. Use the information from this box to **write a description of the event/scene.**

Where does the scene take place?

Describe the scene through the viewpoint of your chosen character: