

Based on the story *A Rose for Emily*, here are brief answers to questions :

1. How does Faulkner use time in the story?

Faulkner uses time in a non-chronological (非时间顺序的), fragmented way, with frequent flashbacks (analepsis) (倒叙/回叙) that jump between different periods in Emily's life and the town's history. This narrative technique creates suspense and reveals the full, shocking truth of Emily's life and secret only at the very end .

2. What does the title “A Rose for Emily” symbolize?

The title is richly symbolic. It can be seen as Faulkner's own symbolic gesture of pity or tribute (致敬/哀悼) to Emily for her tragic, loveless life. More deeply, “a rose” symbolizes secrecy (秘密), reflecting the many secrets the town keeps about Emily and the ultimate secret of Homer's murder that is only revealed after her death. It also symbolizes her tragic and unrealistic love, beautiful but ultimately poisoned .

3. What does Emily's house symbolize in the story?

Emily's house symbolizes the decaying Old South and the fading, stubborn aristocratic gentility (逐渐消逝、根深蒂固的贵族气质) that Emily represents. It is a monument to a bygone era, described as an “eyesore among eyesores”, surrounded by modern garages and cotton gins (这座建筑是昔日时代的纪念碑，被形容为“丑中之丑”，四周环绕着现代车库和轧棉机). Like Emily, it is a relic (遗物) refusing to adapt to change and, in the end, becomes a tomb for her and her secrets.

4. What is the significance of Emily's buying poison “for rats”?

Emily buys arsenic to kill Homer Barron, a Yankee laborer she views as a threat to her reputation and a “rat” who might abandon her. The druggist writes “for rats” on the box to avoid legal trouble, providing her with a socially acceptable cover. This lie is a dark irony, as the “rat” she refers to is Homer himself, whom she poisons to prevent him from leaving, thus ensuring he will be with her forever.