## Contents

Introduction 9  
Chronology 12

### Chapter 1: Background on William Faulkner

1. Faulkner’s Growth as a Writer  
   *Linda Wagner-Martin*  
   William Faulkner, who resisted formal education and wrote in a modern, experimental stream-of-consciousness style, became a giant in the literary world and won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

2. Faulkner’s Economic Struggles  
   *Joseph Blotner*  
   Although Faulkner gained much fame as author of *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying* the income he received for his work was not sufficient to live on, and he struggled financially.

3. Faulkner’s Dysfunctional Family  
   *Judith Bryant Wittenberg*  
   Faulkner’s own family is reflected in the mother, father, and siblings of the Bundren family.

### Chapter 2: As I Lay Dying and Family Dysfunction

1. Faulkner’s View of the Bundren Family  
   *William Faulkner*  
   Addie’s release from marriage and family in death brings conflict and disorder to the fore.

2. Faulkner’s Characters in an Insane World  
   *William Rossky*  
   The insane chaos of the real world is mirrored in the egotism and blindness of a damaged family.
3. Family Conflict and Verbal Fictions in *As I Lay Dying*  
*John Earl Bassett*  
Maternal cruelty leads to disruption and revenge.

4. The Culture of Religious Suppression in *As I Lay Dying*  
*Nanci Kincaid*  
The Bundren family, especially Addie and Dewey Dell, are destroyed by a religion that sees living itself as evil.

5. Maternal Influence in *As I Lay Dying*  
*Marc Hewson*  
Addie is an active force in the lives of her children, an example of emotion and human involvement, as opposed to the male inaction and cold egotism of her husband.

6. Feminine and Maternal Rebellion in *As I Lay Dying*  
*Amy Louise Wood*  
Addie and Dewey Dell both react negatively to motherhood.

7. Father as Victim as Well as Villain  
*Rita Rippetoe*  
Although Anse is usually regarded as the egoist villain of the novel, he is also a victim of poverty and mental disorder.

8. Jewel as Outsider and Man of Action  
*Peter G. Beidler*  
Jewel, Addie’s illegitimate son, is an illustration of the family’s dysfunction in his decision to separate himself from his siblings and in his hot-tempered attacks on them.

9. Vardaman’s Reactions to Death Are Normal  
*Floyd C. Watkins and William Dillingham*  
Vardaman should be interpreted as a normal child, traumatized by his mother’s death. He is not an idiot.
Chapter 3: Contemporary Perspectives on Family Dysfunction

1. Child Neglect Is Prevalent but Not Widely Understood
   Cailin O’Connor and Maggie McKenna
   Emotional neglect of children is often caused by parental depression, social isolation, and stress.

2. Marriage May Not Be Essential for a Functional Family
   Jessica Bennett and Jesse Ellison
   Many of the practical reasons for marriage no longer apply, so love has become more important, and such relationships can still create well-functioning families.

3. Some Women Have No Instinct for Mothering
   Mary Sojourner
   Some women love their children but hate being mothers, a condition that may be attributable to brain cells.

4. Fathers Are Important in the Healthy Development of Children
   Jeffrey Rosenberg and W. Bradford Wilcox
   Involved fathers are key to healthy and emotionally stable children.

5. Mom’s Favoritism Can Affect Kids, Sibling Rivalry as Adults
   Sharon Jayson
   Maternal favoritism, while very common, impacts self-esteem and can have long-lasting effects into adulthood.

For Further Discussion

For Further Reading

Bibliography

Index