Weekly Reading and Writing #4

Read: For Tuesday, April 20:
• “A Rose for Emily,” by William Faulkner, p. 390 (Remember your notecard)
  “The Meaning of A Rose for Emily,” p. 1445

For Thursday, April 22:
• “The Yellow Wallpaper,” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, p. 467 (notecard)
  “A Feminist Reading of Gilman’s The Yellow Wallpaper,” p. 1458
  “Undergoing the Cure for Nervous Prostration,” p. 1460
  “Why I Wrote The Yellow Wallpaper,” p. 1463
• Take another look at “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin, p. 250

Weekly Writing #5
Directions: Choose two questions from the following. Please write about two different stories. For each question, develop your response in a focused paragraph. Use details, specifics, examples, and quotes from the story to develop your response. Please word-process, single-space, and follow the general guideline of about ½ page for each response.

“A Rose for Emily”
1. As you read the story, please stop at the end of each section and make predictions about where the story is going. Write these predictions down as notes and include them in your writing. Then compose a response to the following: Identify the point-of-view. Who is the narrator? Why do you think the narrator deliberately rearranges the chronology of the story’s events?

2. (Creative Option) Choose any moment of interest (scene) in this story and re-tell it from Miss Emily’s point-of-view (first person).

3. In what ways is Miss Emily similar to Julian’s mother in “Everything that Rises”? In what ways are they different? For this comparative analysis, include the obvious, but dig deeper too; try to uncover some interesting surprises.

“The Yellow Wallpaper”
1. This story was written in the year 1892. Do you think that the issues this story raises are contemporary issues as well—as important in the year 2005 as they were in the year 1892? If you do, then in what ways? If you do not, then do you believe that these issues have been resolved over the past century?

2. Feminist analysis: In their essay, “A Feminist Reading” (1493), Gilbert and Gubar write that “an escape from the numb world behind the patterned walls of the text was a flight from disease into health.” Explain this interpretation. Who is escaping and from what is she escaping?

3. (Creative Option) Consider all that the wallpaper represents in this story. If you were to write a similar contemporary story, what image (like the wallpaper) would you use to create the same kind of meaning? Write a paragraph of your updated story.

4. Like Poe’s narrator in “Cask of Amontillado,” the narrator in “The Yellow Wallpaper” is in a state of neurotic compulsion. But she is no homicidal maniac. Unlike Poe, Gilman suggests that the bondage of conventional marriage has driven her heroine to the brink of madness. Compare/contrast the two narrators.

“The Story of an Hour”
1. Explain the irony in “The Story of an Hour.”
2. Make up your own question and answer it.