

Critical Perspectives A Study of William Faulkner's "Barn Burning" Story

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William Faulkner 1897-1962 is one of the most original American writers in technique, in style and in subject matter. Many of his writings are about an imagined Mississippi county similar to his home in Oxford. This fictional location is Yoknapatawpha which Faulkner peopled with unforgettable characters of the old and new South.

Barn Burning is a well-known short story that won Faulkner a merited reputation and attracted many famous critics. In this Yoknapatawpha story the author portrays a young boy's love and revulsion for his father, a frightening man who lives by a ferocious conviction in the rightness of his own actions. Faulkner combines a stream-of-consciousness technique with a scrambling of chronology resulting in difficulty to read but rewarding in its profundity. Reading Barn Burning offers many possible critical approaches or strategies. This paper aims at throwing new critical light on the story touching briefly on a variety of methods from formalist, biographical, mythological, psychological and other perspectives.