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Feminism Sandbox Essay

In the story *A Rose For Emily*, Emily is living under the patriarchal rule of her father. Emily's father serves as a symbol of domination over life. This domination leads to some type of obligation not only to her father, but the people in her town as well. When Emily's father dies, Emily has no concept of self without her father. Because of this, Emily refuses to bury her father properly. Due to the overbearing weight of patriarchy, time passes by and Emily is completely isolated from the townspeople or society. Emily's father prevented any young gentlemen from trying to court or marry his daughter. Her father seems to purposefully ignore her needs and innermost feelings as a woman. In order to receive happiness, Emily has to withdraw from the outside world, and all the men in the story seem to understand that. Emily is described as small and frail in comparison to the description of certain males throughout the story. Emily is perceived by her environment as a weak and dependent woman. The town seems to be in a Puritanical southern state. Emily lives her life under the oppression of religion as well. In the south, religion was one of the most important and influential aspects of life. Emily was deprived of her own individuality, and she was discriminated and inhibited by her male peers. Because of this, Emily has a love affair with a northern yankee named Homer. Emily is rebelling against the limitations and the gender roles forced by a patriarchal society.