

the bear by william faulkner

the bear by william faulkner is a celebrated piece of American literature that masterfully blends themes of nature, tradition, and the complexities of Southern life. This article explores the origins, narrative structure, and literary significance of Faulkner's novella, highlighting its central motifs and examining the characters who bring the story to life. Readers will find detailed analysis of the story's symbolism, its place within Faulkner's larger body of work, and its impact on American literary culture. We'll also delve into the historical context surrounding its publication, unravel the layered meanings of the iconic bear hunt, and discuss critical responses over time. Whether you are a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this comprehensive guide will deepen your understanding of "The Bear" and illuminate why it remains a cornerstone of Southern Gothic literature. Continue reading to discover key insights into the artistry of William Faulkner and the enduring legacy of "The Bear."

- Overview of "The Bear" by William Faulkner
- Historical and Literary Context
- Major Themes in "The Bear"
- Character Analysis
- Symbolism and Motifs
- Narrative Structure and Style
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Overview of "The Bear" by William Faulkner

"The Bear" by William Faulkner is a novella first published in 1942 as part of his collection "Go Down, Moses." It is widely regarded as one of Faulkner's most powerful explorations of the American South, blending elements of Southern Gothic with deep philosophical reflection. The story centers on a young boy named Isaac McCaslin and his coming-of-age journey during an annual hunting expedition in the Mississippi woods. The central figure of the tale is Old Ben, a legendary bear whose presence dominates the wilderness and symbolizes the untamed spirit of nature. Faulkner's narrative unfolds over several years, gradually revealing the intricate relationships between land, legacy, and humanity.

Historical and Literary Context

Faulkner's Place in American Literature

William Faulkner is a Nobel Prize-winning author renowned for his innovative narrative techniques and deep exploration of Southern history. "The Bear" is a key example of his literary prowess, showcasing complex characters and richly detailed settings. Written during a period of social and economic change in the American South, the novella reflects the tensions between tradition and progress.

Publication History

"The Bear" was initially published as a standalone story in *The Saturday Evening Post* before being revised and incorporated into "Go Down, Moses," Faulkner's interconnected collection of stories. The novella's publication marked a turning point in Faulkner's career, solidifying his reputation as a master of regional storytelling and psychological depth.

Southern Gothic Elements

Faulkner's work is often categorized as Southern Gothic, a genre characterized by its focus on decay, haunted landscapes, and complex moral dilemmas. "The Bear" features many hallmarks of this tradition, including a setting steeped in history and a cast of characters grappling with legacy and loss.

Major Themes in "The Bear"

Man Versus Nature

A central theme in "The Bear" by William Faulkner is the struggle between humanity and the natural world. Old Ben, the titular bear, represents the indomitable forces of nature, challenging the hunters' skills and resolve. The annual hunt becomes a metaphor for mankind's constant attempt to conquer and understand the wilderness, highlighting the limits of human dominance.

Tradition and Legacy

Faulkner explores themes of inheritance and the passing of tradition through

the character of Isaac McCaslin. The hunting ritual serves not only as a rite of passage but also as a means of connecting the present to the past. The novella grapples with questions of land ownership, familial duty, and the weight of history.

Moral and Ethical Dilemmas

“The Bear” delves into complex moral questions, such as the ethics of hunting, stewardship of the environment, and the responsibilities tied to land and lineage. Characters are forced to confront their own values and the consequences of their actions, leading to moments of introspection and growth.

- The interplay of innocence and experience
- The tension between progress and preservation
- The impact of historical injustices on personal identity

Character Analysis

Isaac McCaslin

Isaac McCaslin is the protagonist of “The Bear,” whose transformation from boyhood to adulthood is meticulously chronicled. His journey is marked by encounters with nature, lessons from elders, and introspective moments that challenge his understanding of heritage and morality.

Old Ben

Old Ben is more than just a bear; he is an enduring symbol of wildness and resistance. His elusive nature and legendary status among hunters make him an object of awe and reverence. The pursuit of Old Ben becomes a metaphor for humankind’s quest for meaning in a changing world.

Sam Fathers

Sam Fathers, Isaac’s mentor, represents wisdom and a connection to indigenous traditions. His guidance is crucial in shaping Isaac’s relationship to the land and the rituals of the hunt. Sam embodies the complexities of cultural heritage in the post-Civil War South.

Supporting Characters

Other notable characters include Major de Spain, General Compson, and Boon Hogganbeck. Each contributes unique perspectives on tradition, authority, and the dynamics of the hunting party.

Symbolism and Motifs in “The Bear”

The Bear (Old Ben) as Symbol

Old Ben is the most prominent symbol in the novella, representing untamed nature and the limits of human control. His survival and eventual death carry deep philosophical significance, illustrating the cycle of life and the consequences of human interference.

The Wilderness

The forest setting is a recurring motif, embodying both danger and sanctuary. It serves as a testing ground for the characters, forcing them to confront their own fears and desires.

The Hunting Ritual

The annual hunt is a symbol of tradition, bonding, and the passage of time. It reflects the characters' connection to the land and their struggle to preserve a way of life threatened by modernization.

1. Old Ben as a symbol of nature's power
2. The forest as a place of transformation
3. The hunt as a rite of passage
4. Guns and traps as symbols of technological intrusion

Narrative Structure and Style

Faulkner's Use of Stream-of-Consciousness

Faulkner employs a stream-of-consciousness technique to convey the inner

thoughts and emotions of his characters. This approach allows readers to experience Isaac's growth and ethical struggles firsthand, lending depth to the narrative.

Nonlinear Storytelling

"The Bear" is notable for its nonlinear structure, with time shifts and flashbacks that reveal the characters' histories and motivations. This technique enriches the story by layering past and present events, emphasizing the weight of legacy.

Rich Descriptive Language

Faulkner's prose is characterized by vivid imagery and detailed descriptions of the natural world. His language evokes the sights, sounds, and sensations of the wilderness, immersing readers in the hunting experience.

Cultural Impact and Critical Reception

Influence on Southern Literature

"The Bear" has had a profound impact on Southern literature, inspiring generations of writers to grapple with themes of nature, history, and identity. Its nuanced portrayal of the American South has cemented Faulkner's status as a foundational figure in regional storytelling.

Critical Interpretations

Scholars have analyzed "The Bear" from multiple perspectives, including ecological, historical, and psychological angles. The novella is frequently cited in academic discussions of race, land ownership, and the legacy of slavery, contributing to ongoing debates about Southern culture.

Enduring Legacy

Decades after its publication, "The Bear" remains a touchstone for literary analysis and a staple of university curricula. Its complex characters, rich symbolism, and philosophical depth ensure its place in the canon of American literature.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is “The Bear” by William Faulkner about?

A: “The Bear” is a novella that follows Isaac McCaslin’s coming-of-age through annual hunting trips in the Mississippi wilderness, focusing on his encounters with Old Ben, a legendary bear, and exploring themes of nature, tradition, and morality.

Q: Who is Old Ben in “The Bear”?

A: Old Ben is a symbolic bear representing the power and mystery of the natural world. He is the central figure of the hunters’ annual expedition and embodies the untamed spirit of the wilderness.

Q: What are the major themes in “The Bear”?

A: The major themes include man versus nature, the tension between progress and preservation, legacy and inheritance, and moral dilemmas related to land and tradition.

Q: How does Faulkner use symbolism in “The Bear”?

A: Faulkner uses Old Ben, the wilderness, and the hunting ritual as symbols to explore deeper meanings such as humanity’s relationship with nature, the passage of time, and the burdens of history.

Q: Why is “The Bear” considered Southern Gothic?

A: The novella features elements typical of Southern Gothic, including decaying landscapes, complex moral issues, and a strong sense of history and tradition, all set within the haunting environment of the Mississippi woods.

Q: How does Isaac McCaslin change throughout “The Bear”?

A: Isaac transforms from a naive boy to a thoughtful adult, shaped by his experiences in the wilderness and the lessons imparted by his elders, especially Sam Fathers.

Q: What is the significance of the hunting ritual in

“The Bear”?

A: The hunting ritual symbolizes tradition, the connection between generations, and the struggle to preserve values and ways of life in the face of change.

Q: How does Faulkner’s narrative style affect the story?

A: Faulkner’s use of stream-of-consciousness and nonlinear storytelling deepens the psychological complexity of the characters and enriches the narrative, allowing for a layered exploration of time and memory.

Q: What is the historical context of “The Bear”?

A: “The Bear” was written during a period of transformation in the American South, reflecting post-Civil War changes, racial tensions, and evolving attitudes toward land and heritage.

Q: What is the legacy of “The Bear” in American literature?

A: “The Bear” is considered a masterpiece of American literature, widely studied for its thematic depth, innovative style, and significant influence on subsequent Southern writers and literary scholarship.

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The Bear by William Faulkner: A Deep Dive into Nature, Masculinity, and the American South

William Faulkner's "The Bear," a novella within his larger Go Down, Moses collection, transcends its seemingly simple narrative of a boy's coming-of-age in the Mississippi wilderness. This compelling story is a powerful meditation on nature, masculinity, wilderness, and the complex relationship

between humanity and the natural world. This post will delve deep into Faulkner's masterpiece, exploring its key themes, characters, and enduring legacy, providing you with a comprehensive understanding of this literary classic. We'll unpack the symbolism, analyze the character arcs, and examine the novella's lasting impact on American literature.

I. The Initiation of Ike McCaslin: A Boy's Journey into Manhood

"The Bear" follows the transformative journey of young Ike McCaslin as he spends summers in the Mississippi wilderness with his family. This isn't just a simple tale of boyhood adventures; it's a rigorous exploration of masculinity defined not by brute force, but by a deep respect for the natural world and a complex understanding of his own heritage. Ike's initiation is not solely about hunting Old Ben, the legendary bear, but about confronting the brutal realities of the antebellum South and its lingering legacy of slavery and exploitation. His relationship with Boon Hogganbeck, his uncle's hunting companion, further underscores this, presenting a contrasting model of a primal, untamed masculinity that, while powerful, ultimately lacks the depth and ethical dimension Ike develops.

II. Old Ben: Symbolism and the Untamed Wilderness

Old Ben, the magnificent bear that dominates the novella, functions as far more than just a hunting trophy. He represents the untamed wilderness itself - a force of nature both powerful and majestic, untouchable by human attempts at dominion. He's a symbol of primal strength and untamed beauty, a stark contrast to the encroaching civilization that threatens to consume the land. The hunt for Old Ben becomes a metaphor for the struggle between humanity and nature, a confrontation that forces Ike to confront his own place within this delicate balance. The eventual killing of Old Ben is not a celebration of victory but a tragic loss, highlighting the irreversible impact of human actions on the natural world.

III. The Legacy of Slavery and the Burden of the Past

Faulkner masterfully weaves the history of slavery and the McCaslin family's entanglement with it into the narrative. Ike's journey of self-discovery involves confronting the morally reprehensible actions of his ancestors. He uncovers the dark truth about his family's wealth, built on the backs of enslaved people, leading him to renounce his inheritance and grapple with the enduring weight of this legacy. This confrontation with the past is crucial to his personal growth and his understanding of his place within the larger context of Southern history. The novella doesn't shy away from the brutal realities of slavery, forcing the reader to confront the complexities of the past and its continued impact on the present.

IV. Nature as a Moral Compass

Throughout "The Bear," nature acts as a moral compass for Ike. The wilderness provides him with a sense of clarity and purpose, contrasting sharply with the moral ambiguities of the human world. The quiet dignity of Old Ben, the rhythms of the natural world, and the interconnectedness of all living things offer Ike a counterpoint to the exploitative and often brutal actions of human society. This juxtaposition underscores Faulkner's powerful critique of unchecked human ambition and the importance of respecting the natural world. Ike's growing understanding of nature's moral code shapes his ethical development and defines his ultimate rejection of his family's legacy of exploitation.

V. The Enduring Legacy of "The Bear"

"The Bear" continues to resonate with readers today because of its timeless exploration of universal themes. It's a story about coming-of-age, the search for identity, the complex relationship between humanity and nature, and the enduring burden of the past. Faulkner's masterful prose, his evocative descriptions of the Mississippi wilderness, and his profound insights into the human condition ensure that this novella remains a cornerstone of American literature, consistently prompting critical discussion and analysis. The themes explored within continue to resonate deeply with readers facing similar struggles with the legacy of historical injustice and the importance of respecting and preserving the environment.

Conclusion:

"The Bear" is more than just a hunting story; it's a powerful and nuanced exploration of identity, morality, and the enduring power of nature. Faulkner's intricate prose and profound insights into the human condition solidify its place as a significant contribution to American literature, continuing to inspire and challenge readers generations later. Its examination of masculinity, the legacy of slavery, and the delicate balance between humanity and nature remains remarkably relevant in today's world.

FAQs:

1. What is the significance of the title "The Bear"? The title refers to Old Ben, the legendary bear, but it also symbolizes the untamed wilderness and the primal forces that shape human experience. It represents a power that is both feared and respected.
2. How does "The Bear" relate to other works in *Go Down, Moses*? "The Bear" serves as a central piece in the collection, offering a foundational understanding of the McCaslin family's history and their complex relationship with the land and its people. It lays the groundwork for the themes explored in the other stories.
3. What is the significance of Ike's renunciation of his inheritance? Ike's renunciation is a powerful act of moral cleansing. He rejects the tainted wealth built on slavery, recognizing the ethical

imperative to confront the past and break free from its oppressive legacy.

4. What are the major symbols in "The Bear"? Major symbols include Old Ben (representing the untamed wilderness), the land itself (representing nature's power and resilience), and the hunting dogs (representing different aspects of masculinity and human ambition).

5. How does Faulkner's writing style contribute to the novella's impact? Faulkner's stream-of-consciousness style, his evocative descriptions of nature, and his use of multiple perspectives create a rich and immersive reading experience, drawing the reader deeply into the story's themes and characters.

the bear by william faulkner: The Bear William Faulkner, 2013-03-19 Isaac McCaslin is obsessed with hunting down Old Ben, a mythical bear that wreaks havoc on the forest. After this feat is accomplished, Isaac struggles with his relationship to nature and to the land, which is complicated when he inherits a large plantation in Yoknapatawapha County. "The Bear" is included in William Faulkner's novel, *Go Down, Moses*. Although primarily known for his novels, Faulkner wrote in a variety of formats, including plays, poetry, essays, screenplays, and short stories, many of which are highly acclaimed and anthologized. Like his novels, many of Faulkner's short stories are set in fictional Yoknapatawapha County, a setting inspired by Lafayette County, where Faulkner spent most of his life. His first short story collection, *These 13* (1931), includes many of his most frequently anthologized stories, including *A Rose for Emily*, *Red Leaves* and *That Evening Sun*. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

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the bear by william faulkner: The Bear Claire Cameron, 2014-02-13 Longlisted for the Women's Fiction Prize Mummy never yells. Mostly not ever. Except sometimes. Anna is five. Her little brother, Stick, is almost three. They are camping with their parents in Algonquin Park, in three thousand square miles of wilderness. It's the perfect family trip. But then Anna awakes in the night to the sound of something moving in the shadows. Her father is terrified. Her mother is screaming. Then, silence. Alone in the woods, it is Anna who has to look after Stick, battling hunger and the elements to stay alive. Narrated by Anna, this is white-knuckle storytelling that captures the fear, wonder and bewilderment of our worst nightmares - and the power of one girl's enduring love for her family.

the bear by william faulkner: Three Famous Short Novels William Faulkner, 2011-05-18 "You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore." —William Faulkner These short works offer three different approaches to Faulkner, each representative of his work as a whole. *Spotted Horses* is a hilarious account of a horse auction, and pits the "cold practicality" of women against the boyish folly of men. *Old Man* is something of an adventure story. When a flood ravages the countryside of the lower Mississippi, a convict finds himself adrift with a pregnant woman. And *The Bear*, perhaps his best known shorter work, is the story of a boy's coming to terms with the adult world. By learning how to hunt, the boy is taught the real meaning of pride, humility, and courage.

the bear by william faulkner: Big Woods William Faulkner, 1994

the bear by william faulkner: The Bear William Faulkner, 1931 Classic of American short fiction; story of a boy's coming to terms with the adult world.

the bear by william faulkner: *Red Leaves* William Faulkner, 2013-03-19 When Chief Issetibbeha dies, custom requires that the Chickasaw leader's worldly possessions be buried with him. This includes his servant, who makes a desperate bid for his life in this early William Faulkner short story. Although primarily known for his novels, Faulkner wrote in a variety of formats, including plays, poetry, essays, screenplays, and short stories, many of which are highly acclaimed and anthologized. Like his novels, many of Faulkner's short stories are set in fictional Yoknapatawapha County, a setting inspired by Lafayette County, where Faulkner spent most of his life. His first short story collection, *These 13* (1931), includes many of his most frequently anthologized stories, including *A Rose for Emily*, *Red Leaves* and *That Evening Sun*. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

the bear by william faulkner: *The Cardinal* Henry Morton Robinson, 1951

the bear by william faulkner: **William Faulkner** John Bassett, 1997 William Faulkner (1897-1962). Writings include: *Absolom, Absolom!*, *Intruder in the Dust*, *As I Lay Dying*. Volume covers the period 1924-1957.

the bear by william faulkner: **That Evening Sun** William Faulkner, 2013-03-19 Quentin Compson narrates the story of his family's African-American washerwoman, Nancy, who fears that her husband will murder her because she is pregnant with a white-man's child. The events in the story are witnessed by a young Quentin and his two siblings, Caddy and Jason, who do not fully understand the adult world of race and class conflict that they are privy to. Although primarily known for his novels, William Faulkner wrote in a variety of formats, including plays, poetry, essays, screenplays, and short stories, many of which are highly acclaimed and anthologized. Like his novels, many of Faulkner's short stories are set in fictional Yoknapatawapha County, a setting inspired by Lafayette County, where Faulkner spent most of his life. His first short story collection, *These 13* (1931), includes many of his most frequently anthologized stories, including *A Rose for Emily*, *Red Leaves* and *That Evening Sun*. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

the bear by william faulkner: **The Big Bear of Arkansas** William Trotter Porter, 1843

the bear by william faulkner: **The Essential Faulkner** William Faulkner, 2013-01-02 A collection of essential pieces by an American master • "A real contribution to the study of Faulkner's work."—Edmund Wilson In prose of biblical grandeur and feverish intensity, William Faulkner reconstructed the history of the American South as a tragic legend of courage and cruelty, gallantry and greed, futile nobility and obscene crimes. He set this legend in a small, minutely realized parallel universe that he called Yoknapatawpha County, Mississippi. No single volume better conveys the scope of Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha legend than *The Essential Faulkner*. The book includes self-contained episodes from the novels *The Sound and the Fury*, *Light in August*, and *Sanctuary*; the stories "The Bear," "Spotted Horses," "A Rose for Emily," and "Old Man," among others; a map of Yoknapatawpha County and a chronology of the Compson family created by Faulkner especially for this edition; and the complete text of Faulkner's 1950 address upon receiving the Nobel Prize in literature. Malcolm Cowley's critical introduction was praised as "splendid" by Faulkner himself. Also includes: "A Justice" "The Courthouse" (from *Requiem for a Nun*) "Red Leaves" "Was" (from *Go Down, Moses*) "Raid" (from *The Unvanquished*) "Wash" "An Odor of Verbena" (from *The Unvanquished*) "That Evening Sun" "Ad Astra" "Dilsey" (from *The Sound and the Fury*) "Death Drag" "Uncle Bud and the Three Madams" (from *Sanctuary*) "Percy Grimm" (from *Light in August*) "Delta Autumn" (from *Go Down, Moses*) "The Jail" (from *Requiem for a Nun*)

the bear by william faulkner: *Pushing the Bear* Diane Glancy, 1996 Chronicled through the diverse voices of the Cherokee, white soldiers, evangelists, leaders, and others, a historical novel captures the devastating uprooting of the Cherokee from their lands in 1838 and their forced march westward.

the bear by william faulkner: Surviving Henry Green, 2012-05-31 Edited by the author's grandson, the novelist Matthew Yorke, and with an Introduction by John Updike, this book is an excellent selection of Henry Green's uncollected writings. It includes a number of outstanding stories never previously published, written during the '20s and '30s (Bees, Saturday, Excursion, and the remarkable Mood among them). It contains a highly entertaining account of Green's service in the London Fire Brigade during the War; a short play written in the 1950s; and a selection of his journalism, including revelatory articles about the craft of writing, a marvellous evocation of Venice, a description of falling in love, reviews which illuminate his literary enthusiasm and the entertaining interview with Terry Southern for the Paris Review. It is rounded off with a biographical memoir by Green's son, Sebastian Yorke. Fascinating and invaluable as an introduction to Green, *Surviving* casts new light on his work and illustrates the many facets of this exceptional writer, one of the two most important English novelists of his time.

the bear by william faulkner: *Intruder in the Dust* William Faulkner, 2011-05-18 A classic Faulkner novel which explores the lives of a family of characters in the South. An aging black who has long refused to adopt the black's traditionally servile attitude is wrongfully accused of murdering a white man.

the bear by william faulkner: *Absalom, Absalom!* William Faulkner, 2022-08-01 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of *Absalom, Absalom!* by William Faulkner. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

the bear by william faulkner: *Faulkner's Wilderness in the Bear* Timo Dersch, 2011-10 Seminar paper from the year 2011 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,9, University of Stuttgart, language: English, abstract: This paper highlights the affinity of Faulkner towards the wilderness exemplarily for his story *The Bear* and regard its function and meaning from different perspectives. It tries to find a category to put the story into and illustrates the fact that there are several functions the wilderness has and represents in the story. Those functions include the two main topics, the educational function and the aim for calling the reader's attention to the destruction of this once untouched nature area. The following work will focus on this two main functions and tries to present them in an understandable way by giving references to in-text-quotations, historical background, and references to other examples out of Faulkner's works.

the bear by william faulkner: *The Saddest Words: William Faulkner's Civil War* Michael Gorra, 2020-08-25 A New York Times Notable Book of 2020 How do we read William Faulkner in the twenty-first century? asks Michael Gorra, in this reconsideration of Faulkner's life and legacy. William Faulkner, one of America's most iconic writers, is an author who defies easy interpretation. Born in 1897 in Mississippi, Faulkner wrote such classic novels as *Absalom, Absalom!* and *The Sound and The Fury*, creating in Yoknapatawpha county one of the most memorable gallery of characters ever assembled in American literature. Yet, as acclaimed literary critic Michael Gorra explains, Faulkner has sustained justified criticism for his failures of racial nuance—his ventriloquism of black characters and his rendering of race relations in a largely unreconstructed South—demanding that we reevaluate the Nobel laureate's life and legacy in the twenty-first century, as we reexamine the junctures of race and literature in works that once rested firmly in the American canon. Interweaving biography, literary criticism, and rich travelogue, *The Saddest Words* argues that even despite these contradictions—and perhaps because of them—William Faulkner still needs to be read, and even more, remains central to understanding the contradictions inherent in the American experience itself. Evoking Faulkner's biography and his literary characters, Gorra illuminates what Faulkner maintained was “the South's curse and its separate destiny,” a class and racial system built on slavery that was devastated during the Civil War and was reimagined thereafter through the South's revanchism. Driven by currents of violence, a “Lost Cause” romanticism not only defined Faulkner's twentieth century but now even our own age. Through

Gorra's critical lens, Faulkner's mythic Yoknapatawpha County comes alive as his imagined land finds itself entwined in America's history, the characters wrestling with the ghosts of a past that refuses to stay buried, stuck in an unending cycle between those two saddest words, "was" and "again." Upending previous critical traditions, *The Saddest Words* returns Faulkner to his sociopolitical context, revealing the civil war within him and proving that "the real war lies not only in the physical combat, but also in the war after the war, the war over its memory and meaning." Filled with vignettes of Civil War battles and generals, vivid scenes from Gorra's travels through the South—including Faulkner's Oxford, Mississippi—and commentaries on Faulkner's fiction, *The Saddest Words* is a mesmerizing work of literary thought that recontextualizes Faulkner in light of the most plangent cultural issues facing America today.

the bear by william faulkner: *The Tangled Fire of William Faulkner* William Van O'Connor, 1954 *The Tangled Fire of William Faulkner* was first published in 1953. Minnesota Archive Editions uses digital technology to make long-unavailable books once again accessible, and are published unaltered from the original University of Minnesota Press editions. Out of the tangled fire that is the genius of William Faulkner's fiction, this critical study draws as coherent and highly original view of the writer's achievement. By placing Faulkner in his Mississippi background and analyzing his novels and short stories in chronological sequence, O'Conner demonstrates a major thesis that sets this apart from other studies. It is his interpretation that Faulkner's fiction is not all of a piece, does not merely develop the conviction of the legend of the Old South, but is, rather, marked by diversity of theme.

the bear by william faulkner: *One Matchless Time* Jay Parini, 2009-03-17 William Faulkner was a literary genius, and one of America's most important and influential writers. Drawing on previously unavailable sources -- including letters, memoirs, and interviews with Faulkner's daughter and lovers -- Jay Parini has crafted a biography that delves into the mystery of this gifted and troubled writer. His Faulkner is an extremely talented, obsessive artist plagued by alcoholism and a bad marriage who somehow transcends his limitations. Parini weaves the tragedies and triumphs of Faulkner's life in with his novels, serving up a biography that's as engaging as it is insightful.

the bear by william faulkner: *Blood Meridian* Cormac McCarthy, 2010-08-11 25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION • From the bestselling author of *The Passenger* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Road*: an epic novel of the violence and depravity that attended America's westward expansion, brilliantly subverting the conventions of the Western novel and the mythology of the Wild West. Based on historical events that took place on the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s, *Blood Meridian* traces the fortunes of the Kid, a fourteen-year-old Tennessean who stumbles into the nightmarish world where Indians are being murdered and the market for their scalps is thriving. Look for Cormac McCarthy's latest bestselling novels, *The Passenger* and *Stella Maris*.

the bear by william faulkner: *William Faulkner* Richard Godden, 2009-01-10 In *William Faulkner*, Richard Godden traces how the novelist's late fiction echoes the economic and racial traumas of the South's delayed modernization in the mid-twentieth century. As the New Deal rapidly accelerated the long-term shift from tenant farming to modern agriculture, many African Americans were driven from the land and forced to migrate north. At the same time, white landowners exchanged dependency on black labor for dependency on northern capital. Combining powerful close readings of *The Hamlet*, *Go Down, Moses*, and *A Fable* with an examination of southern economic history from the 1930s to the 1950s, Godden shows how the novels' literary complexities--from their narrative structures down to their smallest verbal emphases--reflect and refract the period's economic complexities. By demonstrating the interrelation of literary forms and economic systems, the book describes, in effect, the poetics of an economy. Original in the way it brings together close reading and historical context, *William Faulkner* offers innovative interpretations of late Faulkner and makes a unique contribution to the understanding of the relation between literature and history.

the bear by william faulkner: *A Study Guide to William Faulkner's Bear* Gale, Cengage

Learning, 2015-09-15 A Study Guide to William Faulkner's *Bear*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students series. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

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not only for American literature, but also for world literature, and reveals how Faulkner lives on so powerfully, both in the works of his literary heirs and in the lives of readers today.

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