

Tagging friction in a narrator's voice

A completed field-log annotation using the built-in reader workflow: select, tag, note, save, and carry a question forward.



ACTIVITY PROMPT

Select one sentence that slows, disorients, surprises, or rewards you. Tag the friction you felt, then leave a note explaining what the sentence makes possible or difficult.

COMPLETED MODEL

"My mother is a fish."

TAGS

Connection | Importance

OBSERVATION

The sentence is grammatically simple, but it refuses the ordinary distinction between a person and an animal.

INTERPRETATION

Vardaman may be using identity to make death feel temporary. If his mother can become something else, disappearance does not have to mean absence.

QUESTION

Does the sentence show confusion, imaginative survival, or a form of understanding the adults cannot access?

How the thinking moves

Use this model to study the sequence of decisions. Do not copy its answer; repeat its movement with your own evidence.

STEP 1	Select a precise passage in the reader.
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STEP 2	Choose one or more friction tags.
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STEP 3	Write a note to your future self.
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STEP 4	Add the entry to the field log.
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STEP 5	Compare the pattern across three saved entries.
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Why this model works

The annotation does not diagnose Vardaman or summarize the section. It stays with the pressure created by one sentence, uses the reader's own friction tags, and saves a question for later comparison.

Student self-check

EVIDENCE	I named a specific detail and accurately situated it.
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INTERPRETATION	I explained why the detail matters instead of only summarizing it.
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COMPLICATION	I left room for another reader or another piece of evidence.
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MEDIUM	I explained what this interface, image, or map makes visible.
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Citation and AI disclosure

Suggested citation: Watkins, Marc. *Reading Faulkner in the Age of Thinking Machines*. Interactive digital collection and teaching resource, 2026.

Project: As I Lay Dying Immersive Reader. <https://mwatkins03-netizen.github.io/As-I-Lay-Dying-Immersive-Reader-Fable-5/>

Literary source: Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying*. Jonathan Cape & Harrison Smith, 1930.

AI disclosure: Marc Watkins conceived, directed, selected, revised, and takes responsibility for this resource and the linked projects. Generative AI systems assisted with interface prototyping, code generation and debugging, visual asset development, and editorial scaffolding. OpenAI Codex assisted with the gallery and PDF production. Watkins reviewed and shaped all outputs. Student-facing activities do not require generative AI, and students should cite any AI use required by their course or institution.