

Book-A-Minute Summaries:

Use these condensed synopses of three of the texts we've read this year as models as you compose book-a-minute summaries for two other novels or plays (or rewrite one or more of these). Note that two significant elements of these summaries are **humor** and **thematic meaning**.

***As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner**
Ultra-Condensed by Samuel Stoddard

Addie:

I have a child. Yay.

I have a second child. Boo.

Just for that, I'll have another.

I'm sorry; to make up for it, I'll have two more.

(Addie DIES, and her body ROTS.

Her children have PROBLEMS.)

THE END

***Hamlet* by William Shakespeare**
Ultra-Condensed by Adrien Arnold

Hamlet:

Whine whine whine...

To be or not to be...

I'm dead.

THE END

***Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad**
Ultra-Condensed by Samuel Stoddard and David J. Parker

Mr. Marlow:

I'm the good side of mankind, upstanding and respectable.

Mr. Kurtz:

I'm the bad side of mankind, once honorable, now mired in depravity.

The Jungle:

I'm the heart of mankind, home to sinister darkness and corruption.

(Mr. Kurtz dies. Mr. Marlow is reborn.)

THE END