Quentin’s single day:

* He wakes up
* He talks with Shreve, who tells him that he is going to be late for Chapel
* He breaks his watch
* He packs his suitcase with a change of clothes
* He writes two letters: one to his father and one to Shreve
* Shreve walks in, interrupts his thoughts, asking him about missing chapel, but Quentin mutters and excuse and leaves
* He looks for Deacon, an old black man who does odd jobs for the university
* He passes a jewelry store and stops in, asks the man about the clocks
* He goes to the hardware store and buys the flat irons
* He gets on a streetcar
* He sees Gerald pull a punt (racing boat) out of the water
* He pulls up to the station and sees Deacon who is dressed up like an officer at a parade. He as,s Deacon to deliver the letter to Shreve tomorrow, in exchange for a gift (unnamed)
* Goes back to his room and sees Shreve who tells him that he has an invitation from Gerald’s mother to a party. Shreve is glad that he is not invited.
* He leaves and gets on another streetcar. (it is noon)
* He gets off at a river/bridge.
* He sees three boys fishing for a big trout and listens to their conversation.
* He asks them if there are any factories in town with bells
* He walks into the town into a grocery store.
* He sees a dirty little girl in the corner, Quentin calls her “sister”
* He buys her some bread; they leave together.
* HE tries to figure out where she lives, but she doesn’t speak; she just stares at him
* He buys her icecream
* They walk to the end of town, but she still hasn’t said anything. He gives her a oin and then leaves her.
* He then climbs a wall, and somehow runs into her again
* He tries again to get her to tell her where she lives, is unsuccessful, and then they walk down to the river
* He runs into the three boys from earlier. They are mad that he brought a girl with him.
* All of a sudden, a group of men run up to them and the girl finally says “There’s Julio.”
* Julio tries to beat him up because he thought that Quentin was trying to kidnap his sister. He brought the sheriff with him
* Quentin is arrested, and he starts laughing when Julio claims he tried to kidnap his sister.
* On the way back to town, Gerald, his mother, Spoade, Shreve and two girls drive up.
* Of course, when they all hear that Quentin’s been arrested, Shreve is the only one who immediately gets out of the car.
* The girls, especially, look at Quentin in horror.
* Shreve joins them as the walk to the jail, where the sheriff books Quentin.
* Quentin hasn’t said anything about helping the little girl.
* Spoade insists that Quentin’s arrest is a mistake.
* The sheriff, calculating a bit, charges Quentin six dollars for Julio’s trouble.
* In those times, six bucks is a decent amount of cash.
* Shreve’s outraged – but Quentin pays the money, and they all leave.
* Quentin goes out of time for a while, has lots of memories, and wakes up after realizing that he hit Gerald who had been telling bawdy stories about the women he’d been sleeping with.
* Quentin loses the fight with Gerald. Badly.
* He leaves them, saying he’ll walk back to campus. They let him go
* He walks for a while then gets on a streetcar
* He says that he can smell the curves of the river (a lot like Benjy)
* He gets off of the car at the post office
* He is in his dorm room, sees that Shreve had left him a letter saying that the Blands were having another get together
* He changes, putting his bloody clothes into his bag.
* He worries about his hair, but Shreve has a brush.
* We don’t see it, but he then goes out and kills himself.

1. Why do you think Quentin is so obsessed with sisters? How does he feel about them? How does he feel about women in general?
2. How do other people (his father, Dalton Ames, Herbert, Gerald) seem to feel about women? How does this impact Quentin?
3. How does Quentin seem to feel about his old servants (Roskus, Versh, Uncle Louis, Dilsey, etc)? How does this contradict the way he, as a southern gentleman, is supposed to feel about the servants?
4. When Quentin confronts Dalton Ames, Gerald, Father, or really anyone he disagrees with, how does it turn out for him?
5. What is Quentin’s sense of morality based on? How does he feel about masculinity? About gentility? How does this compare to the way everyone else around him seems to feel and the way that they act?
6. Why does Quentin lie, saying that he committed incest with Caddy?
7. Describe Mother’s personality as shown in this section. At one point, Quentin overheard his mother saying that he, Caddy and Benjy are a curse, and that Jason is the only child she is proud of. Why does she feel this way? How does this knowledge affect Quentin?
8. Considering what you have read so far, what do you think are some thematic topics for *The Sound and the Fury*?

Consider the following quotes:

Pg. 79

Like all the bells that ever rang still ringing in the long dying light-rays and Jesus and Saint Francis talking about his sister. Because if it were just to hell; if that were all of it. Finished. If things just finished themselves. Nobody there but her and me. If we could have just done something so dreadful that they would have fled hell except us.

Pg 95

Again. Sadder than was. Again. Saddest of all. Again.

Pg. 116

And Father said it’s because you are a virgin: dont you see? Women are never virgins. Purity is a negative state and therefore contrary to nature. It’s nature is hurting you not Caddy and I said That’s just words and he said So is virginity and I said you dont know. You cant know and he said Yes. On the instant when we come to realise that tragedy is second-hand.

Choose 2 other quotes that you think are important or enlightening in some way.