

The Summit of Yoknapatawpha
by William Faulkner

Jim

Well I didn't think much about it because everyone ought to have known how important it was, and then I come in and I didn't count 'em but it must've been close on twenty or twenty-five. Now first thing we did, even though that group number two couldn't rightly have had more than five or six, and all of 'em kinda half attention-wise, was tell 'em to pick someone new.

"He's gone," I said, "and you all had better choose someone new, or so help me."

Ross

Choose someone new he said and my name got said and it was a little loud but sure I said why not after all how hard could this job be. Am I right? I asked but somehow I think everyone was thinking on something else.

Jeremy

So just like everyone expected, I was to make the same announcement that I have last week, and the week before, so that everyone can hear about this Coffee House. So I did tell them once more – and even though I can't be blamed since there's only two days yet, it's on Saturday – but I felt awkward anyways and put in some new information to ease it.

For example. The suggested donation is for the benefit of the Living Room Café. Also. Earlier that day, round-ways two-thirty, there'll be a baking competition and then the good stuff can get eaten later, upstairs, at the Coffee House. And that was the extra stuff I said.

Pearl

My face hurts: here's to hoping I look good in thirty years.

Tiwalade

1. Jaw out, stretch the neck.
2. Making surprised eyes, and moving them towards the forehead.

Okay, that's not too much, I think I can remember that all. And when it's my turn to say something I'll just take five seconds to say Yes, we have money and I'll still have time to stretch.

Priyanko

Now I'd heard tell that my position was not official, was not actually, by some technical account, part of the group. Course I well knew that couldn't stop someone like me, cause I know I got duties same as everyone else even if there's no fancy scrap a paper –

Nick

Everyone knows we ain't got the sadness, I said. Don't matter, he said, it's all the good fun. Alright, I said, what's our plan? It's very easy, he went on, we tell all these poetries like we've got the sadness, and we scrawl out some diagrams what show how sad we are, but real child-like.

Okay, I said.

Jonny

My mother is a fish.

Calvin

They should know not to kill the messenger.

Almost like it was my fault, that was how it looked in their eyes. Like I was the one who said, Yeah, why not, it's the county seat, after all, that's where it's coming from, so why don't we take this opportunity to screw those little folks and not let 'em light up within reasonable distance of where they live.

Anyway, I wasn't the one who said that, but it seemed they weren't in any mood to be reasonable on this kinda point, so I just moved on and told 'em what news they might like to hear: like, transportation changes are coming on soon. Like shuttle service and stuff. And that shut them up quick.

Amanda

We have a clock we have a clock was the kind of a thing that I kept saying all important-like and I really wanted them to hear that I could say clock with a capital C cause the clock's shaped like an armadillo and that automatically makes it amazing

Jim

So after this all went on I decided to take up my official position and bring up the issues. Now I know there were plenty of issues facing us so I just went down the list. Priyanko was saying "I don't need no fancy scrap of paper to tell me what to do" but I was going to tell him, Pranks it would make me feel better all the same.

Also: we'd been voting wrong-wise. I'd looked over these regulations and I'd found there wasn't no way these kinds a votes could be legal. Leastways, that's how I was reading it. Gosh, Jim, they should say, we had no idea, so how do we fix it.

Course it couldn't end up going that way. Got a lotta silence, except of course for those folks who don't like the idea of change. Can't say I take much kindness to them.

"All right," I said finally, "but we'll be sure to take care of this next week." And I left to write up a new message to send to everyone so they know.

Alyssa

Friday rummage sale in Hutch, Saturday motet choir, Friday rummage sale, I had to keep these things in my mind else I was sure I'd forget and not get to tell everyone. Don't know how I might deal with that, so with all the good luck I remembered, and then I wrote it down so finally I let it go out of my head.

Jonathan

Man I don't know can I talk about the Coffee House? Cause Jeremy was definitely already saying things about, and now I don't know.

Well I will just tell them to go to Off-Off on Friday cause I am sure they have not heard that yet.

Mark

I had planned this out for some time. There are two types of people in this world, I figured. Some of 'em like UT, and some of 'em don't. All right, I decided, easy enough, I'll just speak twice.

So I did: if you like UT, then you should come down and see my show, a UT show. This was what I said, and I added: it's called Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, and it's running from Wednesday through Saturday.

Then, to reach the complement of that set – the people who don't like it, I said that there was a show, my show, that has nothing to do with UT. Cause I hate it too, I said. And then I gave them the information.

That way everybody will know.

Chris

Somebody yelled motion to adjourn and my mind clicked. I know what that means, I thought, but second second second came more yells which meant I was too late again.