To be a Southern writer [Welty] regards as a special "endowment" because of the richness of local speech, and she has often expressed gratitude for the Southern delight in talking, listening, remembering. Southern talk tends to be narrative—adventure tales, tall tales, folk tales, or local legends; but most commonly it centers on families and their history. The continuity and stability of family and community life in Southern culture has provided Eudora Welty with a natural source of many of her stories and all of her novels.

"Why I Live at the P.O."

- Does Sister’s jealousy of Stella-Rondo affect her credibility as our narrator?
- How does Sister characterize her family? Note the reactions of Papa-Daddy to the insults about his beard and Uncle Rondo’s firecracker incident.
- Does Sister contribute at all to her alienation from the family?
- What do you make of Sister’s decision to move to the post office (P.O.) where she works?

And if Stella-Rondo should come to me this minute, on bended knees, and attempt to explain the incidents of her life with Mr. Whitaker, I’d simply put my fingers in both my ears and refuse to listen.