



Why *The Sound and the Fury* Scores as Dyslexia-Friendly — A Note of Caution

Our readability tool rates *The Sound and the Fury* as highly accessible — but this can be misleading.

The book uses **short sentences** and **simple vocabulary**, especially in the early chapters told from the perspective of Benjy, a character with cognitive impairment. These surface-level features trick the tool into assigning a **high Dyslexia-Friendly Score**, even though the book is **famously difficult to follow** due to its experimental structure, stream-of-consciousness narration, and shifting timelines.

This highlights an important limitation of our current scoring system:

It measures decoding difficulty, not cognitive complexity.

We're currently developing a companion metric — the **Cognitive Load Score (CLS)** — to better assess how much mental effort a passage requires to follow and interpret.

In the meantime, we recommend using the DF Score as a starting point, not the whole picture. *The Sound and the Fury* is an excellent example of why **readability and comprehension are not always the same**.