

Journal Response

This could be assigned for homework the night before or used to start class.

Students should be assessed on the depth and detail of their research. Consider asking students to write a short paragraph linking a particular event on the timeline—either in Warren's life or in the historical context—to something they've noticed in these first four chapters of *All the King's Men*.

Before writing the paragraph (10 minutes suggested)

Have students create a collective timeline for the class spanning the years of Robert Penn Warren's life—either a physical timeline on chart paper or an online timeline using classroom software. Divide students into pairs of two. Each group should research the major historical events that took place during the years of Warren's life, both in the United States, where he lived his whole life, and in global history. They should cover World Wars I and II, the entrenchment of Jim Crow laws, the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement, and the shifts in the American social order that took place particularly from the 1950s to the 1970s.