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| **Event: *Samuel Hamilton’s death*****On the surface: *He dies out of the blue and he doesn’t fight it- it seems contradictory to his character****.***Important details which show the complexity of the event**Una’s death: it “struck him like a silent earthquake” “He felt that it was his neglect that had done it” “He became an old man “Tom says he was dying of sorrow” So…we see this grief well before he dies and it gives some context. It wasn’t out of the blue- he was grieved and it made him old. There are Some things which break a person. Even Samuel is human- subject to the Human ConditionAt Thanksgiving we see shades of his old self: “His sardonic mind glowed and his speech took on its old singing rhythm. He is tired and puzzled that he wants to go to bed….He is trying to live as a younger man in an old man’s body- the natural effects of time. Even his family is surprised that he is an “old man”.When they devise their plan, they say he will see leaving the farm as “closing his life.” However, when he gets the letter, he “…walks up the eastern hill…took up a handful …lets it slip, brushed his palms…saunters down the hill” -symbolic of his resignation that it is perhaps time to leave- notices that Tom is a grown man and reflects that Liza is“such a little bit of a wife” Then, “I know where I am going And I am content.” but accepting it “tore him to pieces”. Leaving the ranch was like “plunging a knife into a darling” but having made up his mind, he set about doing it well. As he said goodbye to friends, they knew they would not see him again and he gazed at the mountains and trees as if to memorize them for eternity- still resigned- sadness- like he is giving in – out of character for him.Then Lee knows he is planning to die and tells him “There’s death all around you. It shines from you” What a paradox! Then Samuel uses the metaphor of music for his life and that lately it is has been a single note of unchanging sorrow. He says that people conceive of a life as ending in defeat, but timshel changed that for him- The music of his life is a new melody. He does not believe all men are destroyed- there are those who like pillars of fire guide frightened men through the darkness…the choice of winning! As Samuel leaves, his hair is shining with starlight**So….**As seen from the evidence, his death is not out of the blue- it is clearly foreshadowed and Una’s death was the catalyst. It pushed him into old age, which no one can overcome- it is natural. He goes from a resigned acceptance as though his life is ending in defeat until he hears timshel. Then he recognizes that he can’t stop death, but can “guide frightened men through the darkness”. He makes the choice of embracing his end and seeing it as a “path open- new and bright” Even in death, Samuel continues to guide Adam “through the darkness” when he visits Kate and Adam even comments that Samuel did not seem dead to him- that he was still a presence. Through Samuel’s death, SB shows that we are all human and suffer from the same “Human condition”- no one is immune. Even though Samuel seems too good to be true, he is human. This is a perfect foil to Cathy, who is too evil to be true, but she is showing signs of humanity. He also emphasizes the idea of timshel because that is what changes Samuel’s perception on his own death- from sad resignation to embracing it- choosing to show the best of the human spirit- it is in our hands- choice | **Event: *Adam sees Kate/Knowledge of “timshel”*****On the surface: *Adam shows up Kate- isn’t affected by her anymore/ man has choice*****Important details which show the complexity of the event:** |