

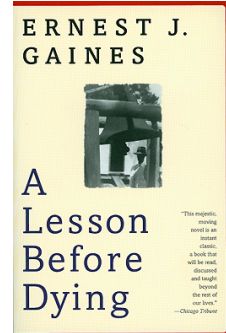
REQUIRED

COURSE TITLE: CP Literary Experience (**Grade 9**)

REQUIRED TEXT: *A Lesson Before Dying*

AUTHOR: Ernest J. Gaines

GENRE: Social Realism



SUMMARY: His defense lawyer refers to him as an animal, a *hog*, too dumb to know how to keep himself out of trouble, but Jefferson is a man. This young black man is an unwitting party to a liquor store shootout in which three men are killed. Jefferson is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, a university educated grade school teacher, is recruited by Jefferson’s grandmother to teach Jefferson a “lesson before dying”; she wants her grandson to die a man, not a *hog*. The two form a friendship through a journey of mutual self-discovery in which each reclaims his identity and dignity as a man.

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSE (DUE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL):

Identify elements of characterization, plot, and ethical values in the novel.(See link for Ridge Code of Ethics). As you read, you should take notes or annotate (see Annotate link):

- in a notebook
- using post-its
- in the margins (if you own the book)

- **Due First Day of School:** bring your annotations with you to class.
- **Future Assignments:** By the end of the first marking period, you will compose an essay using *A Lesson Before Dying*.