

COURSE TITLE Honors English 9 (**Grade 9**)

REQUIRED TEXT *A Lesson Before Dying*

AUTHOR Ernest J. Gaines

GENRE Fiction

SUMMARY His defense lawyer refers to him as an animal, a *hog*, too dumb to know how to keep himself out of trouble. This young black man, Jefferson, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shootout in which three men are killed; he 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*.

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSE (Due the first day of class)

While you read, annotate the text noting demonstrated ethics. You will note Jefferson's character traits in the beginning of the novel, Jefferson's character traits at the end of the novel, and the event(s) that cause his change. Annotations will be due the first day of class.