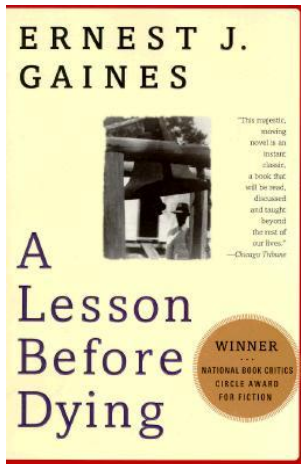
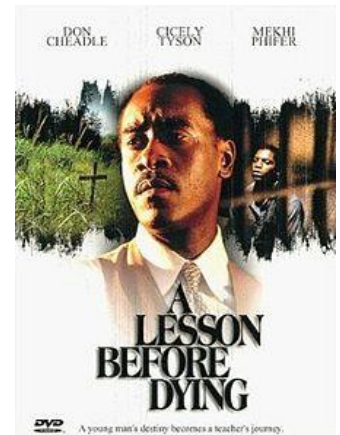


A Lesson before Dying by Ernest Gaines



Be prepared to discuss the following questions:

1. Can one person effect change in a society in which traditional ways of behavior are firmly entrenched?
2. How does one balance conflicting loyalties?
3. How does one preserve one's conventions and personal beliefs in the face of constant attack and struggle?



4. What is the significance of the names of the Rainbow Club?
5. Is Grant a hero, according to the definition he gives Jefferson in Chapter 24, (191-92)? Is Jefferson a hero? Do any of the other characters qualify as heroes according to Grant's definition?
6. What images and descriptive elements are associated with the quarter's church-school? How do they establish the church-school within the landscape and history of the quarter, within the lives of the main characters, and within the main action of the novel? What is the impact of the description, in Chapter 31, of the building's foundations?
7. How, in what contexts, and in association with which characters, does Gaines make use of images of the Messiah or savior? Which images connects specifically with Christ and which are presented in more general terms?
8. Who learns lessons? Who teaches them? What lessons are learned? (Evidence, please.)

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Adapted by Anna J. Small Roseboro – Thanks to original writer.
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