

Rising 9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment
English Language Arts
Pleasant View School

Selected Work: *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines

“Do I know what a man is? Do I know how a man is supposed to die? I’m still trying to find out how a man should live. Am I supposed to tell someone how to die who has never lived?”

A Lesson Before Dying focuses on Jefferson, a young African American man who is wrongfully convicted of killing a white shopkeeper in a small Cajun community in 1940s Louisiana, and Grant Wiggins, who is asked by Jefferson’s grandmother to teach Jefferson to “die like a man.”

For this novel, we will focus on annotation of character, theme, diction, tone, and syntax when we return. Two weeks into our discussion, we will also write an analytical essay that compares and contrasts the justice system portrayed in the novel with our contemporary justice system.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Alejo at jcartwrightalejo@pleasantviewschool.com