

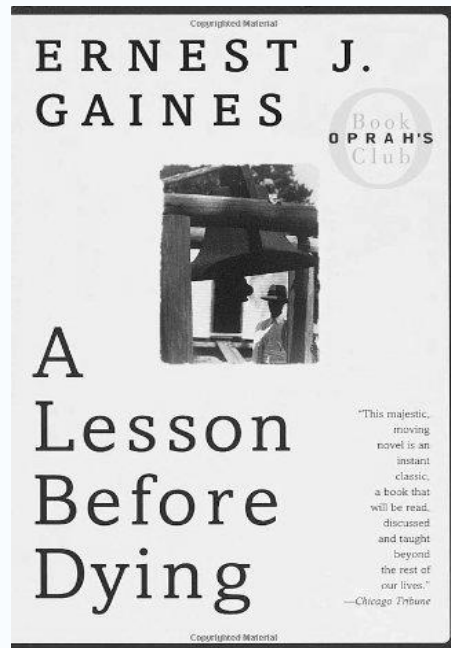
# JBC Literary Times

## A LESSON BEFORE DYING

by Ernest J. Gaines

Lessons to be learned are always lessons to be taught, but the value of lessons are pure perception. How we perceive is how we view; how we view reflects what we understand....A lesson before dying could be a lost or last lesson OR it could be the birth of many lessons, depending on the teachers and students!

- Ray



I believe the moral of the book *A Lesson Before Dying* is not only that it is worthwhile teaching someone about how to die how as a better person for oneself, but also for others. The “teacher” (Mr. Wiggins) can be taught the same lesson: there is other knowledge more important than literary knowledge.... I believe Jefferson finally learned to better face the inevitable consequence of life—death.

- Bob

*“Yet they must believe. They must believe, if only to free the mind, if not the body. Only when the mind is free has the body a chance to be free. Yes, they must believe, they must believe. Because I know what it means to be a slave. I am a slave.”* (Page 251)

Death. We will all die and ought to do something good while we're alive. It can be seen that simply. By teaching Jefferson how to express himself and be proud of himself, Grand demonstrated that we humans do have the potential to be noble beings.

- Elizabeth

Brave means being afraid of something but still doing it. I don't know who was bravest: Mr. W. for giving life to a “dead man” or the “dead man” for giving life to Mr. W. Neither one exactly realized that in lighting one candle, they had started a wild fire.

- Eli

First of all, thank you for the movie. The movie was a five-star production. It grabs your attention from the beginning to the end. What I got out of the movie was that no matter what you do in life, being with the wrong people at the wrong place and time can cost you your life. But at the same time, what happened in the story changed a lot of other people's lives. For one, what Jefferson went through with the help of others made the teacher stop just thinking about himself. Even though Jefferson was called a "hog" and was mad at the world for being in jail and on death row for something that he didn't do, with the help of God and the teacher, he realized that God had his arms around him. So he stood tall like the man God made him to be.

- Jeff

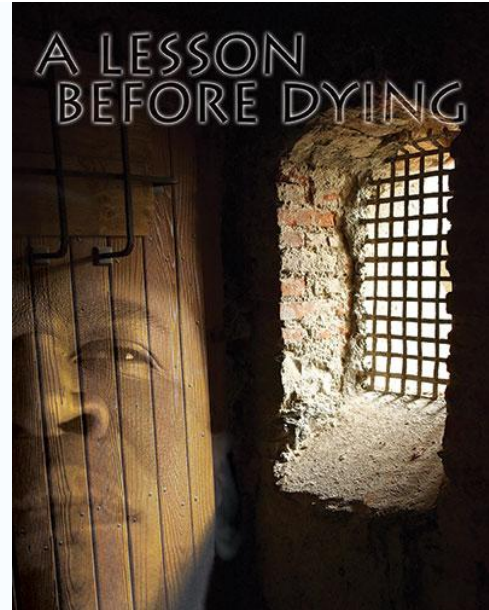
*" But let us say he was (guilty). Let us for a moment say he was (guilty). What justice would there be to take his life? Justice, gentlemen? Why, I would just as soon put a hog in the electric chair as this." (Page 8)*

Lesson Before Dying teaches you something about life and how you live your life. I think it's letting you know that tomorrow is not promised, so you should take it a day at a time and enjoy yourself while you're still here. You never know what could happen in the future.

- Ray

Everybody is born for a reason. Once you reach adulthood, it's up to you to figure out what that reason is and what you want to do with your life. All it takes is one split second for you to LOSE YOUR LIFE.

- Michael



*Good by mr wigin tell them im strong tell them im a man*

*-Jefferson's diary*

You talk about someone so badly but later find out the pain that person is going through. I ask that you don't talk about someone because of how he or she looks--go talk to the person before you judge them. Because they look different does not mean that they do not like you.

-Raymond

There's a ripple effect in everything you do. Your decisions today are not just about you.

Transformation starts from deep within. It's in the heart where it begins.

-Eli