

## SUMMER READING COURSE LINK

### CHOICE TITLE

<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Literary Experience
<b>GRADE</b>	9
<b>TITLE</b>	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Ernest J. Gaines
<b>GENRE</b>	Fiction

### DESCRIPTION

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

Identify elements of characterization and plot in the novel. You should take these notes either in a notebook or on *post-its* within the text as you read.

### SUGGESTED STUDENT RESPONSE

While you read you might want to take notes, annotate, complete a journal or somehow note significant information you read.