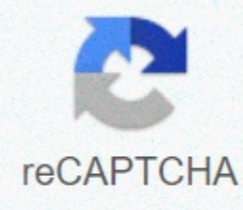




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A lesson before dying close reading questions answers

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One word can change the meaning--close reading of Lesson Before Dying.To begin our day, I ask students to analyze, or close to read, the following quote: Vivian had met and married a dark-skinned boy while attending Xavier University in New Orleans. He had not told his people about the wedding because he knew they were against it (Gaines, 111). What's important? What do we learn about Vivian? Students share their thoughts: Vivian is independent: she decided to marry a man, even though her family would oppose it. Vivian may be light-skinned because of her specifically mentioned as dark skinned and not okay by family standards. (my favorite) Racism was internalized: Vivian, her family, or Grant, because she tells us a story, notice darker skin color and think differently. The latest observation leads us to a debate about internalized -isms, or how discrimination affects those who suffer from it. We have discussed how wrong this is before; Given the deeper consequences, it's just lighting fire on my students. If students have engaged in our close-up warm-up, I ask them to look for text proof to update one of our thematic projects, Manhood Today. I ask how masculinity (or femininity) is developed in the text? Find textual evidence of your inferential requirements. Students meet their original groups to find text support. In eight minutes, we'll be back to share our findings. To continue our work in analysis, we move the read-write-section (we read the part together, pause the written reflection section, and then discuss, as an excellent tool to support struggling readers and maintain class engagement) in chapter 16 lesson before dying. I'm asking students to focus on the tone. Students observe: Grant seems irritated from the start - he's slapping his foot on the ruler. Silence is uncomfortable, not a sign of happy loneliness. Hog remains sore as Jefferson continues to behave like one. The teacher means help, as Lou uses it to justify why Grant must help Emma by bringing Jefferson as in preparation for our next class, I ask students to read chapters 17-18 lesson before dying. Page 4 of 4 Discussion Question 1. All the characters in the lesson before dying are motivated in one word: pig. Jefferson's lawyer compared him to a slave; Miss Emma wants Grant to prove that her godson is not a pig; and Jefferson at first eats the food he has sent him to his knees because that's how the old pig eats. How are words used to humiliate and redeem the characters in this novel? 2. Grant's task is to confirm that Jefferson is not a pig, but a man. The mission is doubly difficult because Grant isn't sure if he knows what a man is. What definition of masculinity or humanity does the lesson teach before dying? Why is masculinity in book miles a subversive concept? 3. At various points in the book Gaines draws analogies of Jefferson and Jesus. One of the first questions Jefferson asks his mentor concerns the importance of Christmas: Is it when He was born, or is it when he died? Jefferson will be executed eight days after Easter. How does that parallel develop? Above all, discuss the word lesson in the scripture shade. 4. For the religious symbolism of the whole book, the central character is a man who has no faith. Grant's refusal to attend church has deeply hurt his aunt and the antagonized Reverend Ambrose, whose Grant's going to resign at first. But at the book's climax he recognizes that Ambrose is braver than me, and he has his students pray in the hours before Jefferson's death. What faith does Grant acquire in the course of this book? Why does the Reverend get two men stronger? 5. One of the paradoxes of the novel is that Ambrose's faith -- which Grant rejects because it is also that of a white man -- allows him to stand up to the justice of a white man. How do we solve this paradox? How has faith served African-Americans as an axis of personal empowerment and collective resistance? 6. Grant believes that black men in Louisiana have only three choices: die violently, be lowered to the level of wild animals, or run and run. How does it make Gaines articulate these grim choices and suggest an alternative to them, to teach a lesson before dying, not just for Louisiana in 1948. Women play an important role in the book. Explore the scenes between Grant and Tante Lou, Grant and Vivian, and Jefferson and Miss Emma, and discuss how much momentum women give their male characters. How do these interactions reflect the role of black women in their families and in African-American society? 8. The pre-death lesson relates to duty and commitment. Discuss this topic as it emerges from the exchanges between Emma Glenn and Pichots, Grant and Vivian, and Grant and Reverend Ambrose. What are the debts these people owe each other? In what ways do they try to respect, evade or exploit them differently? 9. Like Faulkner and Joyce, Gaines is recognized for his place in the evoks. In the lesson before dying his achievement is even more impressive because of the book's brevity. What details in this book create its setting and what is the relationship between this setup and the topics? 10. From the killing that begins with this novel near trial murder, death is a constant presence lesson before death. We are repeatedly reminded of all the nenatsast violent deaths that precede and are likely to follow Jefferson's. So why is Jefferson's death so disturbing to the black characters in this book, and even some of its whites? What does Jefferson's death accomplish that his life couldn't? (Questions put by the publisher.) at the top of page 1 (summary) 1. Who says everyone in the courtroom knows what the outcome of the trial is? Unnamed Narrator 2. Who is this young African-American man at the center of the trial? Jefferson 3. Which of the next guys couldn't get in the car to go to the bar? Grant 4. Where did the #3 go in the end? White Rabbit Bar and Lounge 5. Who owned this bar? Alcee Kobama 6. Who grabs the gun and starts shooting? Rope 7. Where's Grant driving Miss Emma? Tante Lou, are you? Henri Pichot's home on 8 December 2005. Who's the maid in the #?? Inez 9. What does the Rougon family have in the neighborhood? Bank (read all 180 short answers questions and answers) This section contains 3610 words (about 13 pages per 300 words per page)