

## Summer Reading for Incoming Pre-IB English 9 Students

High school is a time to experience new ideas, define your identity, and discover the role of education in your life. To start this journey, you will read *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines. **All Pre-IB English 9 students will read this book as a summer reading assignment and will be expected to come to class on the first day of the school year with the following tasks completed:**

1. Read the text in its entirety.
2. Complete 3 reader response entries that correspond to the three divided sections of the text. Each reader response should be approximately 1 page in length if typed and double-spaced (or 2 pages if handwritten).
3. Bring your completed reader response entries to class on the first day of school, regardless of the semester in which you will take English. Your homeroom teacher will collect these.
4. You will have an assignment related to the text during the first week of class. You will be expected to speak and write intelligently about the characters, plot, setting, and theme.

### Questions for Reader Response Entries:

Part 1 (chapters 1-10): The definition of **characterization** is the way in which an author describes or explains a character. The author can use **direct characterization** and provide specific detail about a character. For instance, an author can write “The girl is nice.”

The author can also use **indirect characterization** where the actions or thoughts of a character help the reader to better understand that character. For instance, the reader might infer the girl is nice when the author wrote “The girl helped the old lady cross the street.” For your first entry, select one major character from *A Lesson Before Dying* and explain how he or she is characterized. Remember to use information from the entire first ten chapters of the text.

Part 2 (chapters 11-20): Setting includes the time, location, and situation in which a story takes place. In your second reader response journal, explore how the setting affects the plot of *A Lesson Before Dying*.

Part 3 (chapters 21-31): The theme of a text is a one sentence statement that is the general message about life that one understands from a text. After finishing the novel, write a theme statement and explain how you came to that understanding.

**Options for finding the book:** Students **do not** have to purchase the book. The Fairfax County Public Libraries have a limited supply of the books at many of the branches. If you are interested in purchasing the text, Barnes and Noble and Borders in the Franconia-Springfield area have been notified that Edison students will be looking for the text. They will have plenty of copies available this summer. You may also want to look at online retailers such as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com), and [www.half.com](http://www.half.com) for new and used copies. Remember to borrow or purchase early to ensure you can complete your assignment before school starts!