

Gaines, Ernest J.: 1933 – 2019

A Lesson Before Dying, 1993 – Characters

Major Characters

Grant Wiggins: Grant is a young, educated Black schoolteacher in a segregated Southern town.

Jefferson: A 21-year-old Black man wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

Tante Lou: Grant's deeply religious aunt who raised him.

Miss Emma Glenn: Jefferson's godmother, known as "Nannan."

Reverend Ambrose: The local pastor who believes religion is the key to restoring Jefferson's dignity.

Vivian Baptiste: Grant's girlfriend, a schoolteacher.

Supporting Characters

Henri Pichot: A wealthy plantation owner.

Sheriff Sam Guidry: The local sheriff.

Deputy Paul Bonin: A young, sympathetic deputy.

Matthew Antoine: Grant's former teacher.