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Header

Lovestowrite 1

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Contemporary Literature

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Due date in international dating

Title: centered, capitalized, summarize thesis

Racism Causing Change in *A Lesson Before Dying*

In *A Lesson Before Dying*, the issues racism and inequality are predominant topics throughout the novel. They affect how the characters live, how they are treated and how they act. Specifically, Grant and Vivian's circumstances are affected by their race and the discrimination that they face. Because of this environment where prejudice is so prevalent, Grant is forced to examine himself, his hatred toward whites and his own community, and to become more self aware in order to change who he was as a person. Because of the discrimination that Vivian faces, she also had to change her life to become more independent and self-sufficient. The adversity brought about by racial discrimination acts as a positive motivator for change in both of these character's lives.

The main character who faces inequality and prejudice is the protagonist, Grant. His character is very complex because he faces both an internal conflict and an external conflict. His internal conflict stems from the fact that he was able to get an education and become an important contributor to his community as a teacher. Because he has this status and knowledge, he feels superior over the other members of his community. His education has essentially caused him to become distanced from everyone in the Quarter (Machado, par 1). He is discouraged by his community and their seemingly permanent inability to change and to gain more respect and power for themselves. Grant becomes frustrated, bitter, and then reluctant to help his community, namely Jefferson, when asked. David E. Vancil writes that Grant must "be delivered from his own malaise of...

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