*A Lesson Before Dying* Name:

English 12

Questions – (25 points)

1. Grant describes the cycle of life for Black men in the South to Vivian. What is his answer to the questions: “Can the cycle ever be broken?” Is his answer relevant today? Explain his answer and its relevance today.
2. How does the white deputy, Paul, contrast with the other white men in the novel? Why is it important that Paul attends Jefferson’s execution? Would you have been able to stand with Jefferson? Why wasn’t Grant at the execution?
3. Writers can become the voice of a generation or of a particular group of people. What kind of voice does Gaines provide through Grant? What can this teach readers about the concerns and dreams of people of color who grew up in the pre-civil rights South?
4. The final entry in Jefferson’s journal is, “good by mr wigin tell them im a man…”How does Jefferson define manhood?
5. What are three possible themes in the novel? Provide the theme and an explanation/description of how you know.