

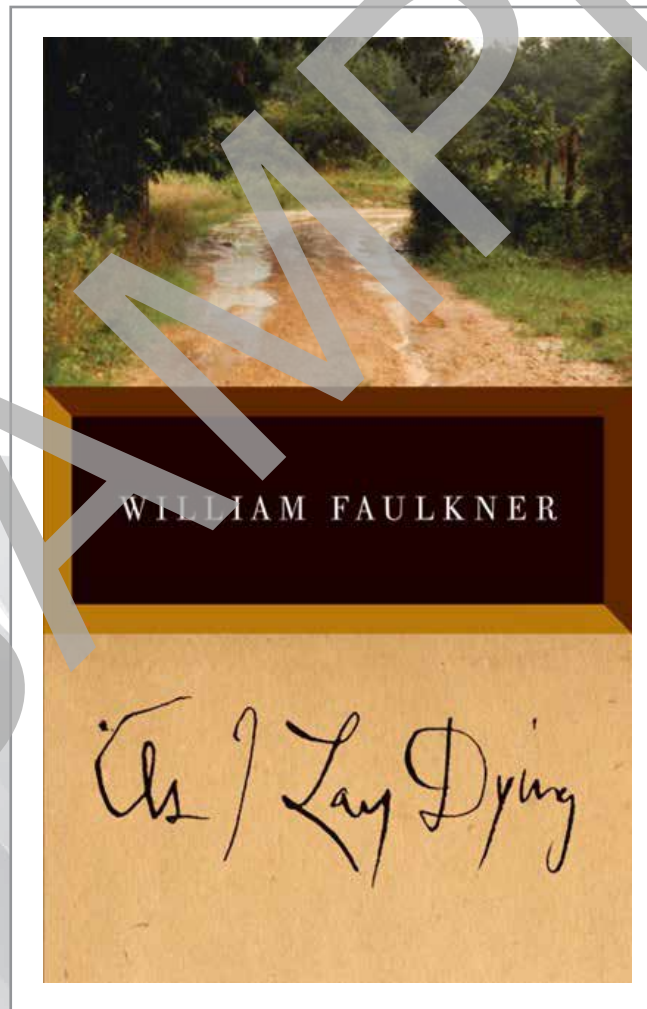


**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 9-12**

# As I Lay Dying

William Faulkner



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# As I Lay Dying

William Faulkner

## STUDENT PACKET

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

---

**ISBN 978-1-50204-387-0**

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2020 by Novel Units, Inc., St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc.

Reproduction of any part of this publication for an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Conn Education.

Printed in the United States of America.

To order, contact your  
local school supply store, or:

Toll-Free Fax: 877.716.7272

Phone: 888.650.4224

3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

[sales@novelunits.com](mailto:sales@novelunits.com)

[novelunits.com](http://novelunits.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Rate the following statements before you read the story. Compare and discuss your ratings with a partner. After you have completed the novel, discuss the ratings again in light of the story.

1 ————— 2 ————— 3 ————— 4 ————— 5 ————— 6  
agree strongly strongly disagree

	Before	After
1. Blood is thicker than water.	_____	_____
2. Family is everything.	_____	_____
3. No one knows you like your family.	_____	_____
4. Every family has its secrets.	_____	_____
5. Home is where the heart is.	_____	_____
6. Happy families are alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. (Leo Tolstoy)	_____	_____
7. The family that prays together stays together.	_____	_____
8. The family, with its narrow privacy and tawdry secrets, is the source of all our discontents. (Sir Edmund Leach)	_____	_____
9. The family is an octopus whose tentacles we never quite escape. (Dodie Smith)	_____	_____
10. Mother knows best. (Edna Ferber)	_____	_____
11. There is no good father, that's the rule. (Sartre)	_____	_____
12. I am not my brother's keeper.	_____	_____
13. Don't speak ill of the dead.	_____	_____
14. Dysfunctional families are the rule these days.	_____	_____

### Pages 68-99

1. How does Cora figure out that Addie has died?
2. How careful is Cash about his workmanship?
3. What does Vardaman think his mother has become?
4. What have Tull and the others retrieved and returned to Dr. Peabody?
5. Why is Cora complaining about Anse?
6. How long has Addie been dead when Darl and Jewel return?
7. Why will the Bundrens have to take the long way to Jefferson?
8. How does Jewel react when Darl points out it isn't Jewel's horse that died?
- \*9. Why is Jewel in such a fury about getting the coffin into the wagon?
- \*10. **Prediction:** How will Cash's worries about the coffin turn out?

### Pages 100-136

1. What work does Tull plan to have Cash do for him?
2. What does Dewey Dell say she is carrying in the basket?
3. Why do the others take off without Jewel?
4. Why is Anse embarrassed by Darl?
5. How does Samson suggest that Anse change his plans—and why?
6. Where do the Bundrens spend the night?
7. What does Samson find in the barn after the Bundren's leave?
8. Why does Jewel snap at Tull to go back to his plowing?
- \*9. Why did Anse get so angry when he found out about Jewel's horse?
- \*10. **Prediction:** What will happen when the Bundrens try to cross the water?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Sociogram

Faulkner shifts point of view frequently, an experimental technique that can be confusing for the reader. The following activity is designed to help you keep track of the characters as you form your impressions of each individual and his/her relationship with the others.

**Directions:** As you “hear from” each character, add describing words and phrases to the “rays” around each name. When you find clues to the nature of the relationships between the children and parents, jot down ideas about the relationship on the appropriate “arms” between the parents and children.

