



PRESTWICK HOUSE

Activity Pack

AS I LAY DYING

BY WILLIAM FAULKNER



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Written by Katie Mitchell

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Researching Setting****Objective:** Researching the setting of a literary work**Activity**

As I Lay Dying chronicles the Bundren family's journey across Mississippi. Much of the land they traverse by horse and wagon consists of dirt roads, rickety bridges, raging rivers, and small, country towns. This activity gives you the opportunity to explore the Bundren family's territory, Mississippi.

During this activity, you will work in a small group to research Mississippi and create a travel brochure that exhibits current pictures of the state. Use the Internet to find attractions, places of interest, restaurants, and accommodations, and include this information in your brochure.

Name: _____

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During Reading: Chapters 2-55 (Pgs. 6-248)**Significant Passages****Objective:** Explaining the significance of selected passages**Activity**

For each of the passages on the Significant Passages Chart, give a short paraphrase of the passage. Then, explain why the passage is important to the novel—either to its plot, the characters, or its theme. Finally, include your personal reaction to the passage. The first one has been done for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 6-10 (Pgs. 21-40)**Research: Funeral Traditions****Objective:** Understanding the funeral traditions of other cultures and religions**Activity**

In this section of the novel, Addie Bundren gets closer and closer to death. Her family prepares to carry out her final wish: to be buried in Jefferson with her own family. Most people in our culture would not find this strange; many Americans wish to be buried alongside their loved ones.

What about other cultures and religions? What are the traditions regarding death, funerals, and burial? In this activity, you will choose one other culture or religion and, using the Internet or school resources, research its funeral traditions. What happens to the body after death? Is there some kind of ceremony? Is the deceased buried, and how? Answer these questions over the course of your research, and be prepared to share your findings with your classmates.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 12 (Pgs. 47-52)**Addie's Last Words****Objective:** Predicting a character's thoughts and actions**Activity**

In Chapter 12, Addie Bundren takes her last breath, but not before shouting Cash's name twice. As it is, her death seems almost secondary to the goings-on of the family: Cash, Vardaman, and Anse stop what they are doing only momentarily to witness her passing; Darl and Jewel are not even home.

Suppose Addie had had an opportunity to speak to members of her family before she died. What do you think her last words would have been to each of them? In the form of a letter to her family, predict what you think Addie would have said as her last words to each of these characters:

- Anse
- Cash
- Darl
- Jewel
- Dewey Dell
- Vardaman

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 25-52 (Pgs. 103-231)**Imagery and Emotion on the Journey to Jefferson**

Objective: Identifying images in the novel
Using imagery to analyze emotion in the novel

Activity

The journey to Jefferson to bury Addie Bundren is the longest and most important section of the novel. Although the reader knows early on that the journey will be difficult, if not impossible, the Bundrens seem reluctant to admit it or perhaps just foolish enough not to worry. During the most challenging parts of the journey, the family's loyalty to each other and ability to work together is tested, and while they do eventually make it to Jefferson, the trip is not without major losses.

Imagery refers to the use of words to evoke meanings beyond the basic. Images say more than the words they are made of; they often convey an emotion in the scene that a character does not or cannot. As you read this section devoted to the journey to Jefferson, pay attention to Faulkner's use of imagery. Record images you find on the Imagery and Emotion chart—we've done the first one for you. Then, translate each image into an emotion. Please include the chapter title with each image you record.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 26-30 (Pgs. 105-122)**Plot Mapping****Objective:** Recalling key events in the novel**Activity**

Create a pictorial time line of the plot. For each section of the novel, draw five small logographs (combinations of pictures and words) illustrating the main events or characters. When you finish this section of the novel and your logographs, you should be able to retell the entire portion by looking only at your paper.

You may set up your own paper in this fashion:

Turn your paper so that it is oriented horizontally, and draw twenty-five boxes, five for each section. Number the boxes one through 25.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 34 (Pgs. 141-149)**Creative Writing**

Objectives: Manipulating the text to create poetry
Identifying poetic language

Activity

Create a “found poem” using Darl’s Chapter 34

One type of poetry is called a “found poem.” This type of poetry allows anyone to write a quality poem. Found poems are constructed by taking portions of writing and putting them together in poetic form to end up with a complete poem. For this activity, you should take sentences, phrases, or words from Chapter 34 and arrange them into a poem. An example created from Chapter 1 follows. You may make your poem read as you see fit. Remember to give your poem a title.

EXAMPLE:

Brothers

I come up from the field
Single file
Broken straw hat in fading precision
Cottonhouse of rough logs
Empty dilapidation, sunshine, yellow gold, soft gold
Staring straight ahead
Pale wood eyes—confidence and comfort
Jewel stops at the spring, drinks
I go on to the house
In silence
Fitting together.

Name: _____

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Chapters 41-50 (Pgs. 177-222)

Casting Call

Objective: Analyzing characters in order to make the novel into a film

Activity

While William Faulkner has written or helped to write a number of films and television shows, including feature film productions of *The Sound and the Fury* (1959), *Sanctuary* (1961), and *The Reivers* (1969), Hollywood has not yet produced a film version of *As I Lay Dying*.

Pretend you are currently casting a film version of the novel. Which actors would you cast for these twelve parts? Follow these steps to complete this assignment:

1. Make a list of which actor will play each part.
Characters to Cast: Darl, Cash, Jewel, Vardaman, Dewey Dell, Anse, Addie, Whitfield, Cora, Tull, Moseley, and Peabody.
2. Use the Internet or magazines to find pictures of each actor.
3. Compile a small cast book to showcase each actor. You may place only one or two actors on one page. Under each actor's picture, write his or her name and tell which character in the novel he or she will portray. Then write a short explanation of your choice: Why would this actor be good in this role? Have you seen this person in other films? Is he or she an Oscar winner? Provide a detailed explanation.
4. At the end of your explanation, include a quotation from the character in the novel that is indicative of his or her personality.
5. Be sure your cast book is neat. Type the actor's name, role, and your explanation, if necessary.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 45 (Pgs. 198-206)**Point of View****Objective:** Recognizing the impact of the point of view of the novel**Activity**

Rewrite a portion of Chapter 45 from a customer's perspective.

The author's choice of point of view influences the way a reader interprets a work of literature. *As I Lay Dying* is written from the points of view of all its characters, one at a time. Sometimes more than one character gives an account of the same event, and those accounts have significant differences. For this activity, you will rewrite a portion of Chapter 45 from the point of view of another customer in the drug store observing the exchange between Moseley and Dewey Dell. Moseley's point of view does not afford Dewey Dell much sympathy for her situation—how would a customer in the store interpret their conversation?

Start your rewrite at the point when Dewey Dell tells Moseley, "It's the female trouble,..." on page 200 and continue to page 203 where Dewey Dell leaves the store. Feel free to paraphrase the conversation between Dewey Dell and Moseley rather than use the entire conversation verbatim.