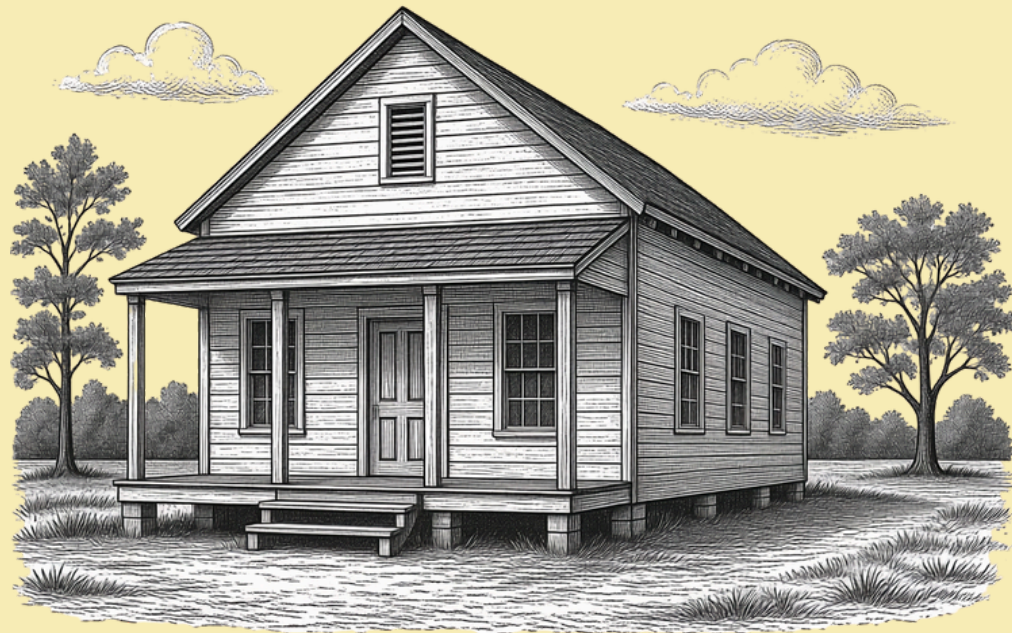


# A Lesson Before Dying



45 activities

5 questions/  
2 chapters



Special Needs for Special Kids



These novel units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges, and most were **non-readers**. They were the best thing I ever did, and my students LOVED them.

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This novel unit has **38 different activities**. These activities are **NOT** comprehension-based. So, even if your students do not pay attention, they can still complete the activity.

# ERRORLESS

Grant believes in God but not in heaven. What are some things people believe in?



For example, Grant believes in God but not in heaven.

In this activity, students will complete a circle map with things people tend to believe in.

There is an errorless option.

**WRONG ANSWERS MIXED IN**

Each time you finish a chapter, there will be an activity your students can do.

The activity will relate to something that occurred in the chapter.

These are cut-and-paste activities supported by pictures.

**Optional:** Quiz students' comprehension by having them answer five multiple-choice questions about that chapter.

# CH 3

1. Where does Grant take Miss Emma and Aunt Lou?



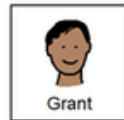
2. How does Grant know Mr. Henri?



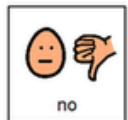
3. Miss Emma tells Mr. Henri she wants Jefferson to die as a \_\_\_\_\_.



4. Who does Miss Emma think can help Jefferson do that?

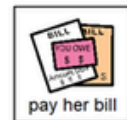
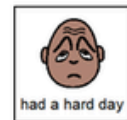


5. Does Mr. Henri agree to try to arrange things for Grant to visit Jefferson?



# CH 4

1. Why does Grant want to see Vivian?



2. Where do Grant and Vivian meet?



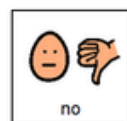
3. Why can't Vivian leave town with Grant?



4. Grant tells Vivian that he is supposed to turn Jefferson \_\_\_\_\_.



5. Does Vivian think Grant should help Jefferson?



This unit does come with comprehension questions. There are 5 questions for every chapter. Each question has 3 picture choices. They are in color and black and white.

Answer key included!!

## Suggestions for Use

- I made this unit to go along with the book, *A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest Gaines.
- The thought is that you would be reading it aloud to your class at a rate of about 1 chapter per day.
- Be sure to give each student their own copy of the storyboard (pg. 7) to use while reading and discussing the story.
- Benefits of reading out loud, even to classes made up of severely affected students:
  - Teaches students to sit quietly even when there isn't something for them to do. This is such an important life skill. We all have to spend time sitting and listening to someone we are not that interested in at some point.
  - Parents will LOVE you. Not only will they be excited that their child is being exposed to age-appropriate material, but you are also teaching them how to sit quietly, which will hopefully carry over at home as well.
  - Even with your lowest-level learners, you will have 1 or 2 that will truly enjoy the story.
- It can be a calming experience to sit and listen to the teacher read methodically. For students who need more structure, place the number of Post-it notes in front of him/her that corresponds to the number of pages you intend to read. Remove a Post-it as you finish each page. The visual will help lessen their anxiety.
- You will find one or more activities for each chapter. You will still have plenty to choose from and find those that fit your students best.
- Differentiation:
  - For any activity, you can quickly differentiate for your lower-level learners by using a color-coding technique.
  - If sorting, outline each sorting category in a specific color and then outline the corresponding pictures in the same color.
  - Becomes a matching task.
- There are comprehension questions to accompany this unit. There are 5 questions per chapter, with 3 picture answer choices. You will find these (in color and BW) in a separate file.

Suggestions on how I found this activity worked best in my classroom are provided. I typically had 6-8 students with one adult assistant in the room with me.

# A Lesson Before Dying

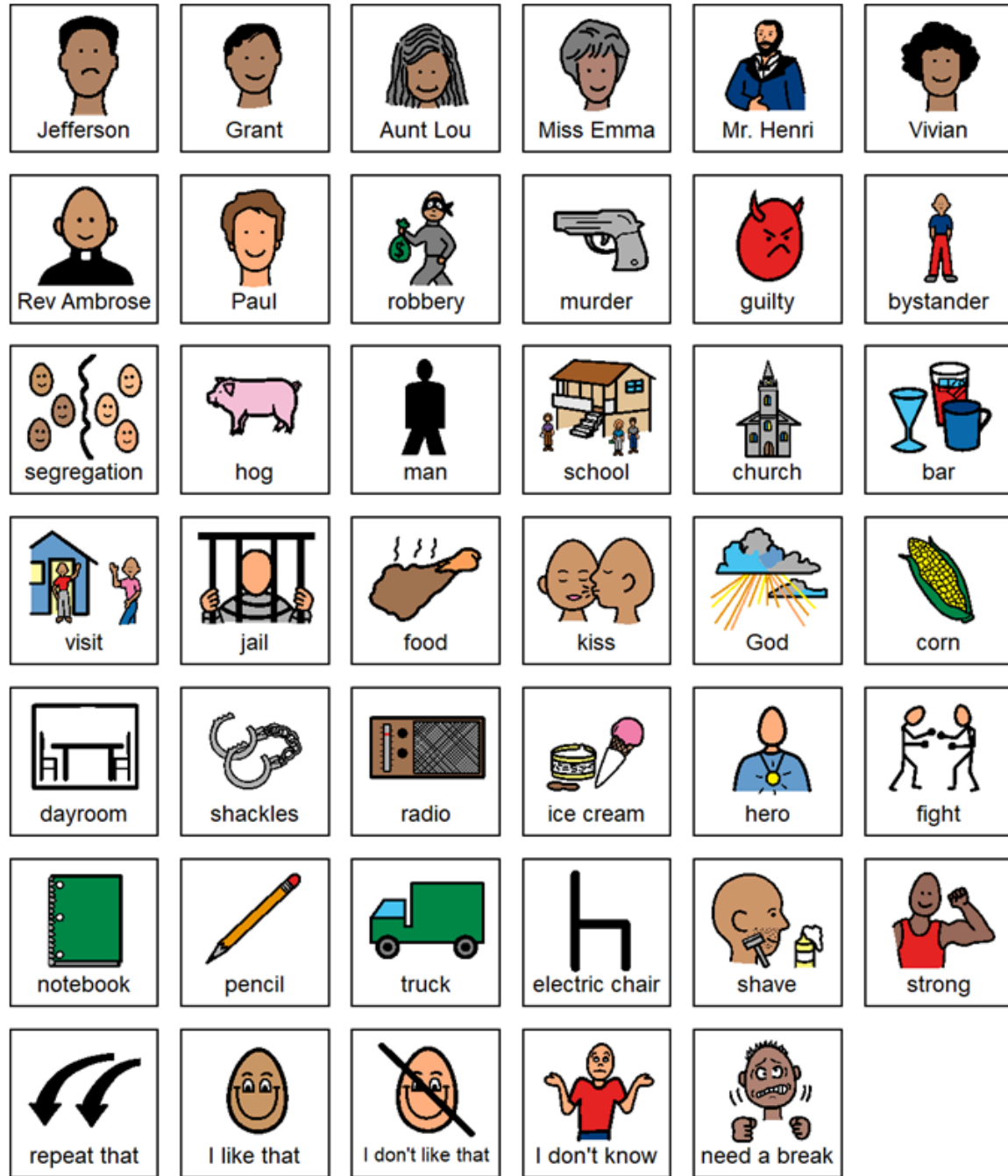
Novel Unit  
for Special Education

By  
Christa Joy  
Special Needs for Special Kids



This entire novel unit comes in 2 separate files. One is completely in color and one is completely in black and white.

Storyboard: to use while reading and for class discussions.  
Laminate and make 1 copy for each student.



Christa Joy, SNSK

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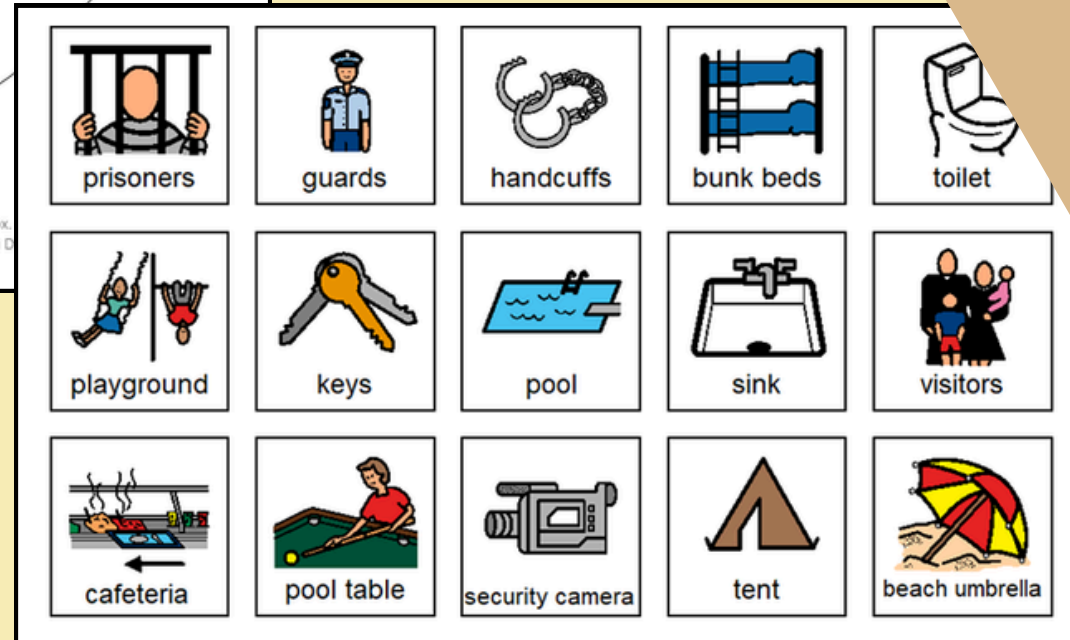
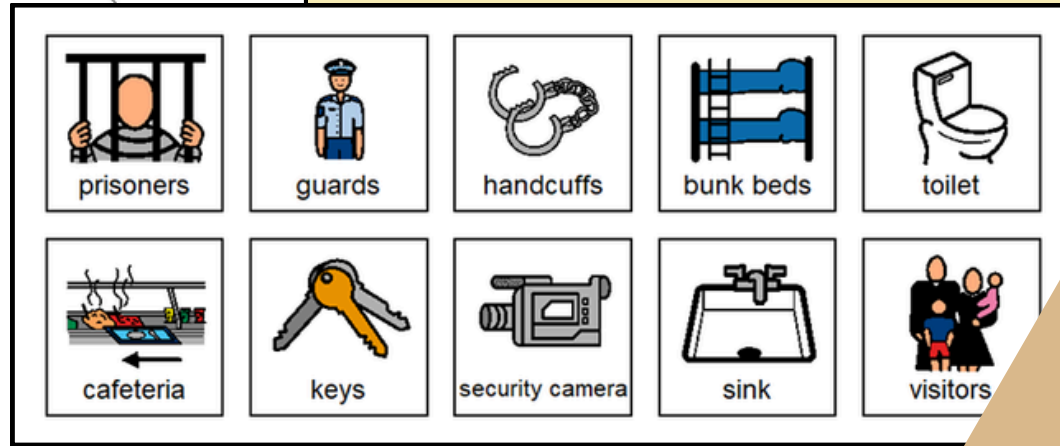
This unit comes with a  
vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great  
for ALL students to assist with  
participation and engagement  
in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

What are some things you would find in a jail?

# ERRORLESS

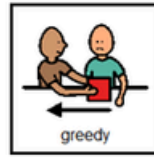
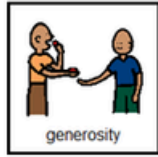


There are circle maps in this unit.

Circle maps are a great way for students to see the big idea.

## WRONG ANSWERS MIXED IN

Several people donate money to Grant for a radio for Jefferson. What are some examples of generosity vs greediness?



Decide if each picture shows an example of being generous or being greedy. If you are not sure, put it on the middle line.











There are sorting activities.

Directions for adding color coding for differentiation are included.

Grant wants his students to make a good first impression. Look at each picture below and match it with your first impression. There may be more than one right answer.

 rainbow	<input type="text"/>	 haunted house	<input type="text"/>
 maze	<input type="text"/>	 surprise party	<input type="text"/>
 roller coaster	<input type="text"/>	 kitten	<input type="text"/>
 leprechaun	<input type="text"/>	 bully	<input type="text"/>

 lucky	 friendly	 mean	 confusing
 beautiful	 exciting	 surprising	 scary

There are matching activities.

Directions for adding color coding for differentiation are provided.

# What freedom means to me

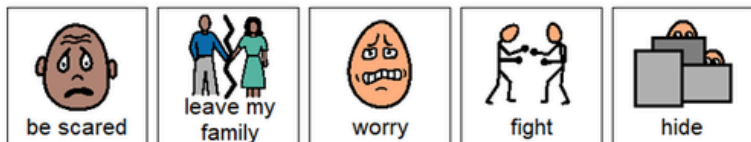
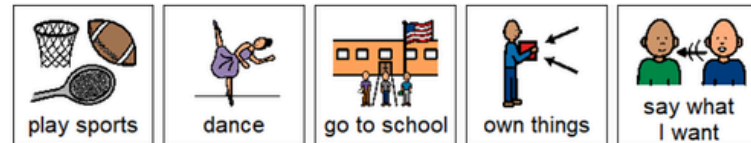
I am a free person. This makes me very .

Being free means, I can go to the  when I want.

Being free means, I can .

Being free means I don't have to .

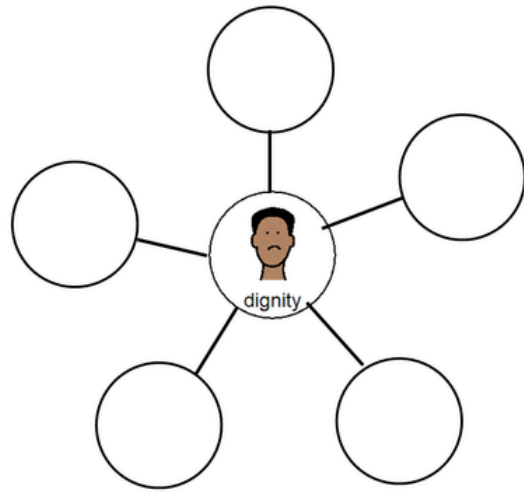
Many people fought so I could be free. I am .



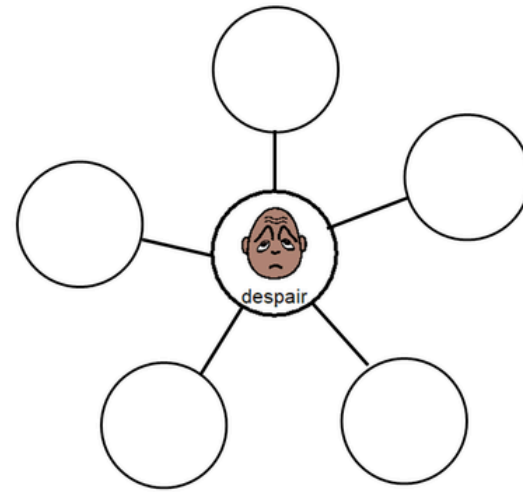
There are writing prompts.

These are errorless activities that allow students to write a story independently.

What does it mean to have dignity?



Miss Emma is feeling hopeless and full of despair. How do you think that feels?



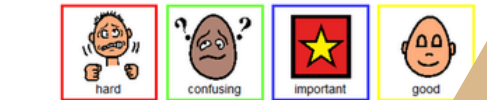
Grant insists that Jefferson should be able to keep his radio. Sometimes the right thing is hard to figure out, but doing it usually makes us feel better.

Doing the right thing can be

Doing the right thing can be

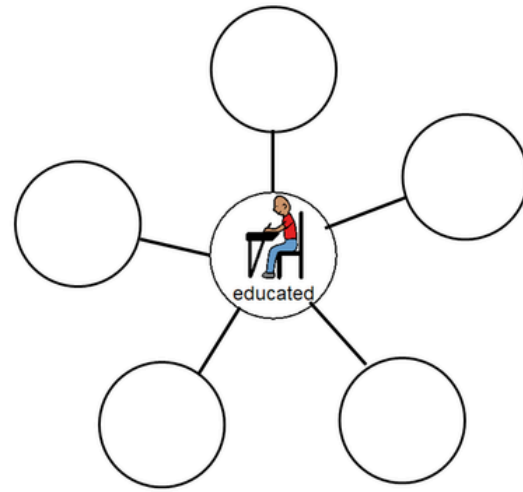
Do the right thing is

Doing the right thing will make you feel



Because there are so many activities, you can choose the ones that fit your students the best.

What does it mean to be educated?



What is a regret?

I regret is something you  you had done.

A regret can make you feel .

A regret can help you makes better .

has regrets.

But, we can all  from them.

