Race prejudice is a learned attitude that causes people to think a certain way about others because of the person's race. Race prejudice can be positive or negative. Race prejudice is positive when people presume that because of a person's race they are better than, more gifted, more moral or more deserving. Race prejudice is negative when people presume that because of a person's race they are worse than, less moral, or less deserving.

What examples of negative race prejudice do you see in the lesson before dying? What examples of positive race prejudice do you see?

One reason why racism is so harmful is that individuals internalize-- begin to believe themselves--the race prejudices about themselves and others of their own race. That is, we fail to see that people of all races as our brothers and sisters and as children of God who are all loved, gifted, and blessed. When negative race prejudice is internalized, persons of color presume they and/or others of their own race are worse than, less gifted, less moral or less deserving than whites. When positive race prejudice is internalized, white persons/Caucasians see themselves or others of their own race as better than, more gifted, more moral, and more deserving than non-whites.

What examples of internalize racial prejudice do you see in the *A Lesson Before Dying*? Do you think there is more internalized positive race prejudice or more internalized negative race prejudice?

Racism and race prejudice are not the same. Racism is when institutions, systems, and organizations combine their power with race prejudice and misuse their power. Examples of misusing power include not only harming, disadvantaging, or controlling people but also benefiting, advantaging, or giving greater freedom to people.

Where in this novel do you see institutions or organizations misusing their power to harm, control, or disadvantage because they are African-Americans? When do you see institutions misusing their power to help/advantage/give greater freedom because they are white?