

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF NADINE GORDIMER'S A WORLD OF STRANGERS

This novel tells about the life of a young Englishman, Toby Hood, who moves to Johannesburg as a representative of his family's publishing company. Toby disagrees with his family's decision to send him to Johannesburg. He feels dissatisfied with the condition in Johannesburg when he arrives there. He chooses to live with a white family in Johannesburg. Toby's life turns out to be different when he meets Anne Louw, an African woman. She is a lawyer that handles the legal troubles of people who cannot afford to consult a lawyer and most of the people she helps there are Africans.

Toby's view of black people changes when he has made the acquaintance of many black and white people. He realizes that most of his people have distanced themselves from blacks and his close relationship with them will give him trouble.

He also suffers from a certain dilemma because he has made a good relationship with the black and white people in Johannesburg. He has a white girlfriend. Toby wants to tell her about his new friends but he realizes that she does not like black people. However, in the end, Toby realizes that living with black people makes him feel free to express himself so he has the courage to tell

his girlfriend the truth about his relationship with black people. Toby makes a decision to stay in Johannesburg with blacks rather than with whites.

SYNOPSIS OF ERNEST J. GAINES A GATHERING OF OLD MEN

This novel tells about the condition of black people in Louisiana in the 1970s. The story starts with the death of a white man, Beau, killed by a black man. The death of this white man gives a new conflict between blacks and whites.

There is a white woman who is a member of the black community. She is the only white woman, who tries to save the murderer in her own way. She tries to save the murderer by saying that she is the real murderer but no one believes what she says. She is concerned about what will happen to the relationship between the two races.

She then tries to gather all the old black men to help her cover up Charlie's crime. Yet, the real murderer whose name is Mathu, refuses her help. Mathu believes that he has to take the responsibility for what he has done to Beau, but the old men also do not want Mathu himself to take that responsibility. Their refusal to reveal Mathu as the real murderer shows their strong brotherhood. In the end Charlie has the courage to tell the truth, that he is the real murderer after seeing all his black friends trying to save Mathu.

BIOGRAPHY OF NADINE GORDIMER

Nadine Gordimer is a novelist, short story writer, critic, essayist, and editor. She was born in South Africa in 1923 and “she was raised in a segregated town outside Johannesburg”(<http://www.bookrags.com/biography-nadine-gordimer/>) In writing her story, she makes the political condition in South Africa as her essential theme. She “focuses on human tensions as the result of apartheid” (<http://www.bookrags.com/biography-nadine-gordimer/>). The achievement she has given to the world is “the understanding of the terrible cost and effect of racism in her country, going beyond what journalism and the media can relate” (<http://www.bookrags.com/biography-nadine-gordimer/>).

Gordimer won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991. *The Late Bourgeois World* (1996), *Burger’s Daughter* (1979), *A Guest of Honour* (1970) are three books written by Gordimer which are banned in South Africa. The Conservationist (1974), Gordimer’s other work, was awarded the Booker McConnell Prize for fiction. Most of her short stories portray the black people struggling to change the condition in which they live.

(<http://www.bookrags.com/biography-nadine-gordimer/>)

(<http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/cm/africana/gordimer.htm>)

BIOGRAPHY OF ERNEST J. GAINES

Ernest J. Gaines was born in 1933 in the River Lake plantation in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. Gaines belongs to fifth generation of his family who was born in that place. He spent most of his time in his early years in the plantation fields and “he goes to school for five of six months out of the year when he was not in the fields” (<http://sbhs.sbschools.net/english/africa/ALBD.htm>). He moved to California to find his parents at the age of fifteen. His parents had moved to California during World War II.

Once he visited the public library in California and discovered Russian and French novels. “Gaines loves the literature but he realizes that none of the authors tell the story about his world” (http://www.jhlibrary.com/onebook/one_auth.htm). He studied literature and creative writing at San Francisco State University and he also studied with Wallace Stegner at Stanford University. He realized that it was “his goal to write many stories related with the African- American history and culture” (http://www.jhlibrary.com/onebook/one_auth.htm).

He published his first short story in 1956. Gaines has won many awards from the writing community. Some of the awards he received were, the 1993 National Book Critics Circle Award, for *A Lesson Before Dying* and a MacArthur Foundation for writing about rare historical events. Now, Gaines becomes a writer in residence at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

(<http://sbhs.sbschools.net/english/africa/ALBD.htm>)

(http://www.jhlibrary.com/onebook/one_auth.htm)

