

Toward Justice: Reflections on A Lesson Before Dying: Community Engagement through Library Publishing

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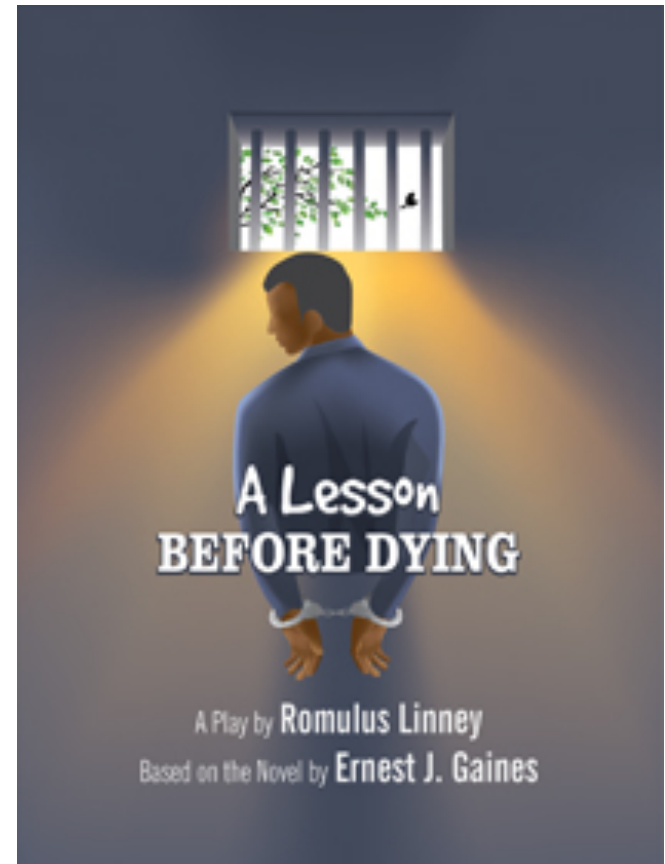
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Big Read

- National Endowment for the Arts
- Community reading programs designed around a single NEA Big Read selection.
- The programs last approximately one month using the book as a point of departure (panels, book discussions, etc.)
- NEA has funded more than 1,400 Big Read programs, providing more than \$19 million in grants nationwide.

The Big Idea

- Clarence Brown Theatre
- Knox County Public Library
- Discussions
- Panels
- Theatrical Production
- A Book!



UT Libraries

- Newfound Press, 2005
- Tennessee Research & Creative Exchange (TRACE), 2009
- LPC member
- Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement (University, 2015)

Newfound Press

- UT Libraries' open access digital imprint
- Peer reviewed and commissioned works
- Monographs and edited volumes
- Occasional print runs

The Call

- Posted to library blog
- Sent through formal and informal channels
- Reached out to individuals who had served on panels for other events
- Sought a range of perspectives



The Process

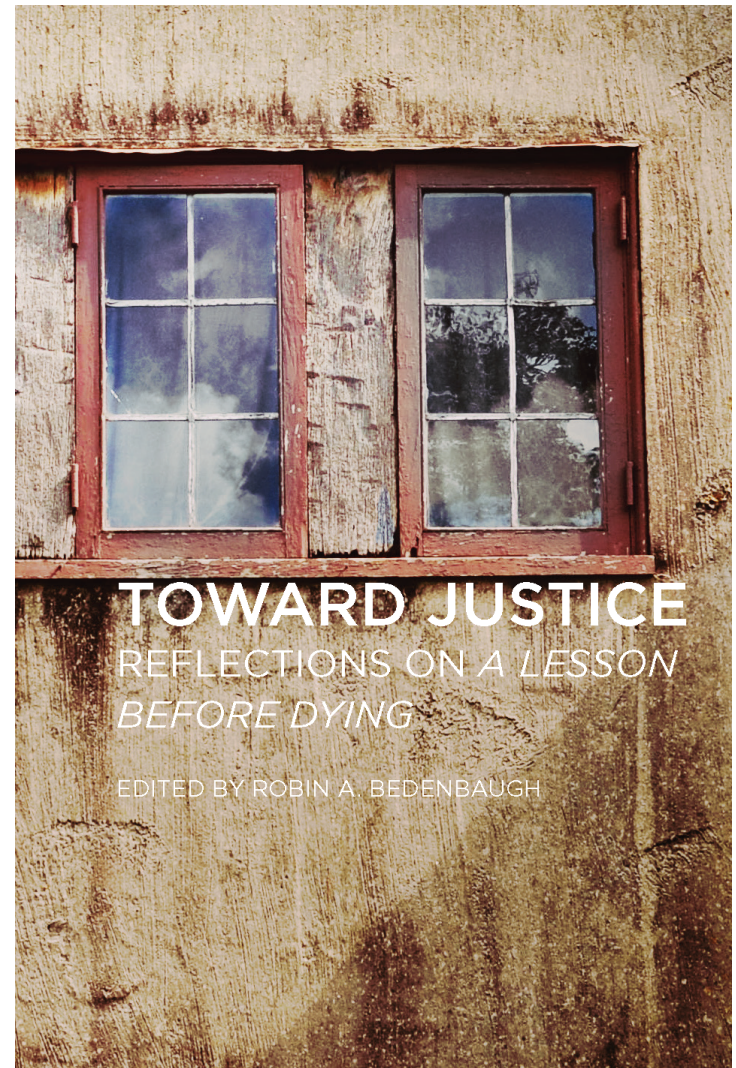
- Call for papers
- Solicited essays and artwork
- Reviewed essays and artwork
- Edited by UT Libraries and NewFound Press staff



Kylan Campbell, Austin-East Magnet High School, 2016

The Book

- 83 pages
- 8 essays
- Public Health
- Education
- Law
- Community
- 17 pieces of artwork



“White people rarely understand that racism is intensely personal; its destructive power is felt by individual human beings in countless ways every day. It crushes people, though often so slowly we pretend not to see it. It only gets personalized when a sensational headline appears from Ferguson, Missouri; or Cleveland, Ohio; or Fruitvale Station in Oakland, California.”

--Ralph Hutchison

Engagement

- Big Orange STEM Saturday (BOSS)
- Accessing Academic Research – East TN Nonprofits
- Discovery Living-Learning Community
- Diversity Lunch & Learn



Next Steps

- CFP out for the latest First Year Studies/Big Read book
- *Station 11* by Emily St. John Mandel
- Deadline is soon
- Already have over 20 essays and over 20 pieces of artwork



Thank you!