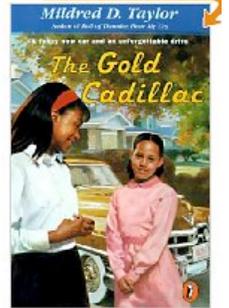


The Gold Cadillac

By Mildred D. Taylor

Illustrator Michael Hays

This book is about an African American family during the years of civil rights. Lois and Wilma are proud of the brand-new gold Cadillac their father has just bought a new Cadillac to drive down south. The mother of the family is not happy about this and refuses to ride in the car. She finally gives in and the whole family heads down south in the gold Cadillac to visit their relatives. In the rural South there are no admiring glances for the shiny new car, only suspicion, anger and dirty looks for the black man behind the wheel because African Americans are not supposed to be that rich. For the first time in their lives, two sisters know what it's like to feel scared because of the color of their skin. A policeman pulls them over and accuses the father of stealing the car. After this the father decides to sell the car and get a plainer car so people will not harass them.



Define lynch. Why would this word send a shiver through Lois and Wilma?

- What did the father purchase?
- Why was the mother angry about it?
- Why did the uncle say they should not drive to Mississippi?
- What happened to the family when they reached the Mississippi line?
- Why did the father decide to head back to Memphis?
- Explain why the father sat in deep thought often while they were in Mississippi.
- What did the father do with the Cadillac after they returned to Ohio?

Use a map of the United States to show the route that the family took in the gold Cadillac.

Ask students to explain the ending of the story. This can be done in through writing, or a visual or auditory presentation.