

Brown Girl Dreaming

Jacqueline Woodson. Nancy Paulsen Books, Penguin Books for Young Readers. 336pp. Trade ISBN978-0-399-25251-8

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 6-8

Through beautifully and carefully crafted verse, Jacqueline Woodson tells the story of her childhood in *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Rooted deeply in memory, the poems follow Woodson's experiences in Ohio, South Carolina, and New York with themes of family, friendship, religion, home, and segregation. Writing becomes Woodson's escape from the world around her, but also her power; power that shines through in the emotions expressed across poems in *Brown Girl Dreaming*. The reader learns from these poems what it was like growing up as an African American child in both the North and the South during the 1960's and 70's through personal reflection and historical contexts.

Woodson's poems serve as a powerful tool for connecting students to both history and geography. Through the narrative story of the poems, the reader is introduced to key geography themes such as perceptions of places based on culture and experience, internal migration and push and pull factors, and varying cultures. With poems spread across different states in both the North and the South, the readers also learn how geographic location can play a key role in history.

Resources:

1. "White Customers Only"
https://c1.staticflickr.com/3/2262/2515673212_1c71ce76a8.jpg from Image Editor
2. Colored Drinking Fountain
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4a/%22Colored%22_drinking_fountain_from_mid-20th_century_with_african-american_drinking.jpg
3. Civil Rights March
<https://cdn.loc.gov/service/pnp/ppmsca/04200/04297v.jpg>
3. 1950 African American Population Distribution Map
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/images/treemap.jpg>
4. *Say it Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VRSVDlpDI>

*There are some inappropriate comments in the comment section below the video, but none within the video itself.

5. About Langston Hughes and poem "I, Too"

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/i-too>