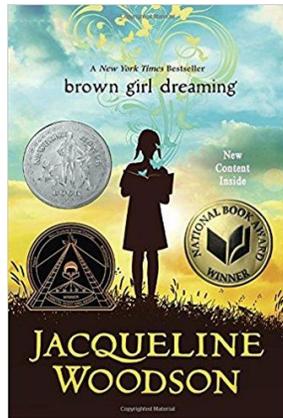


River Dell Regional School District

River Dell Middle School: 7th Grade Summer Reading

Brown Girl Dreaming

By Jacqueline Woodson



Brown Girl Dreaming is an autobiographical story of author Jacqueline Woodson's childhood, written in verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. She shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

Before the start of school, please read Jacqueline Woodson's award-winning novel, *Brown Girl Dreaming*. We will be reading other novels throughout the year with similar themes and ideas as well as several character, setting and literary connections.

While you read, be sure to complete the **questions** so that you are prepared for an **assessment on your summer reading upon your return to school.**

Lastly, although this is your only *mandatory* summer reading assignment, we strongly encourage you to read at least one other novel of your choice. Go to your local library, select a book you think looks interesting, and enjoy!

Have a wonderful summer, and we are looking forward to an engaging and enriching year with you!

River Dell Regional School District

Brown Girl Dreaming

Study Guide

Themes: Memory, Language & Story-telling, Racism, Activism, and the Civil Rights Movement, Religion and Spiritualism, Home, Identity, Family

Symbols: Air, Composition Notebook, Gap teeth

Motifs: Hair, Dirt Accents, Silence

Guided Reading Questions as you read:

1. Examine the theme of *home* and *family* in *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Where does Jacqueline feel most at home? What does family mean to Jacqueline? What do these mean to you?
2. Where does Jacqueline start to see change happening in her life? Where does she start to see it in the world in which she lives? Where do you see change happening in your life?
3. How does Jacqueline Woodson come to find herself, as told in *Brown Girl Dreaming*? What and/or who are the strongest influences on Jacqueline's identity? How do they help her find her voice?
4. While growing up, Jacqueline lived in the American North and South at different seasons in her life. How were her relationships, her experiences, and her sense of self shaped by differences in her locations? How does where you live shape your relationships, experiences, and sense of self?
5. How do you think this book is relevant in today's social climate? Which themes from the book continue to be relevant in the lives of young children in the United States?