

The Other Side

by Jacqueline Woodson

The pictures and words are strong partners in this lyrical narrative about friendship and the racial tension that divides their two worlds.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What does a fence do and why are they used?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if these two girls would like to play with each other?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Other Side*

- stretched: to spread out or extend over an area
- stared: to look directly at somebody for a long time without moving the eyes away
- polite: showing good manners
- damp: slightly wet
- brave: having or showing courage, especially when facing danger
- yonder: the far distance
- laundry: dirty clothes to be washed
- blouse: a girl's shirt

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did Clover's Mother warn her not to climb over the fence?
- How do you think Annie was feeling when she asked if she could play?
- Why didn't Sandra ask the rest of the girls if Annie could play? How would you have answered Annie?
- Do you think Annie had anyone to play with?
- Do you think Annie wanted to be friends with Clover? How can you tell?
- Why didn't Clover's Mama tell her to get down off of the fence?
- Annie finally did climb over to Clover's side of the fence and jumped rope. Did anything bad happen when she did that?
- Do you think the fence should be knocked down? Why or why not?

Do

Friendship Chain

Provide strips of paper for the children to print their name on. When all the names are on the strips of paper, the children can connect them together (using tape or glue) to make a chain. The chain should symbolize that everyone in the class is a friend.

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