



Title: Brown Girl Dreaming
Author: Jacqueline Woodson
Imprint: Nancy Paulsen Books
Publisher: Penguin Young Readers
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Format: Hardcover and Paperback
Age Range*: 10 and up
Grade Range: 4-7

BOOK RESUME: BROWN GIRL DREAMING

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Jacqueline Woodson's National Book Award and Newbery Honor winner is a powerful memoir that tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse.

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, 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. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"*Brown Girl Dreaming*, Jacqueline Woodson's highly lauded collection of free-verse poems about her childhood in New York and South Carolina, has language simple enough to be accessible to tweens and young teenagers and more than enough complexity to engage older readers. The winner of a Newbery Honor, NAACP Image Award, National Book Award and Coretta Scott King Award, *Brown Girl Dreaming* presents the story of Woodson's experiences living with the remnants of Jim Crow during the 1960s and 1970s. The author confronts issues like faith, racism and sexual abuse using the elegant, spare language and powerful imagery she has come to be known for." —*TIME MAGAZINE*

"Gorgeous." —*Vanity Fair*

"A radiantly warm memoir." —*The Washington Post*

"Moving and resonant . . . captivating." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"This is a book full of poems that cry out to be learned by heart. These are poems that will, for years to come, be stored in our bloodstream." —*The New York Times Book Review*

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Penguin Random House

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“A profoundly moving memoir.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*

★ “The writer’s passion for stories and storytelling permeates the memoir, explicitly addressed in her early attempts to write books and implicitly conveyed through her sharp images and poignant observations seen through the eyes of a child. Woodson’s ability to listen and glean meaning from what she hears lead to an astute understanding of her surroundings, friends, and family.”
— *Publishers Weekly*, STARRED REVIEW

★ “Mesmerizing journey through [Woodson’s] early years. . . . Her perspective on the volatile era in which she grew up is thoughtfully expressed in powerfully effective verse. . . . With exquisite metaphorical verse Woodson weaves a patchwork of her life experience . . . that covers readers with a warmth and sensitivity no child should miss. This should be on every library shelf.”
—*School Library Journal*, STARRED REVIEW

★ “Woodson cherishes her memories and shares them with a graceful lyricism; her lovingly wrought vignettes of country and city streets will linger long after the page is turned. For every dreaming girl (and boy) with a pencil in hand (or keyboard) and a story to share.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, STARRED REVIEW

★ “[Woodson’s] memoir in verse is a marvel, as it turns deeply felt remembrances of Woodson’s preadolescent life into art. . . . Her mother cautions her not to write about her family but, happily, many years later, she has and the result is both elegant and eloquent, a haunting book about memory that is itself altogether memorable.”—*Booklist*, STARRED REVIEW

★ “A memoir-in-verse so immediate that readers will feel they are experiencing the author’s childhood right along with her. . . . Most notably of all, perhaps, we trace her development as a nascent writer, from her early, overarching love of stories through her struggles to learn to read through the thrill of her first blank composition book to her realization that ‘words are [her] brilliance.’ The poetry here sings: specific, lyrical, and full of imagery. An extraordinary—indeed brilliant—portrait of a writer as a young girl.”—*The Horn Book*, STARRED REVIEW

★ “Woodson uses clear, evocative language. . . . A beautifully crafted work.”
—*Library Media Connection*, STARRED REVIEW

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AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A National Book Award Winner
- A Newbery Honor Book
- A Coretta Scott King Award Winner
- Arizona Grand Canyon Reader Award, 2016
- California ACL Distinguished Books, 2014
- Kansas E.B. White Read-Aloud Award Middle Reader Inner, 2015
- Kansas William Allen White Children's Book Award, 2016-2017
- Kentucky Bluegrass Book Award, 2016
- New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award, 2017
- New York New York Historical Society Children's Book Prize, 2015
- North Carolina Children's Book Award, 2016
- Ohio Arnold Adoff Poetry Award, 2017
- Ohio Norman A. Sugarman Children's Biography Award, 2016
- Ohio Ohioana Book Award, 2015
- Rhode Island Teen Book Award, 2016
- Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List, 2017
- Virginia Jefferson Cup Award, 2015
- Wisconsin Just One More Page!, 2015
- Georgia Children's Book Award, 2015-2016
- Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award, 2015-2016
- Washington D.C. Capitol Choices Reading List, 2014
- Iowa Children's Choice Award, 2016-2017
- Pennsylvania Keystone to Reading Book Award, 2015-2016
- New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award, 2016-2017
- New Mexico Lizard Master List, 2016-2017
- Massachusetts Children's Book Award, 2017-2018
- Oregon Reader's Choice Award (ORCA), 2016-2017
- Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award, 2016-2017
- Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award, 2016-2017
- New Hampshire Great Stone Face Book Award, 2015-2016

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Educator Guide](#)
- [Harpers Bazaar "Eight Authors on How it Feels to Have Their Books Banned"](#)
- [Ai Velshi Banned Book Book Club with Jacqueline Woodson](#)

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