



Title: Harbor Me

Author: Jacqueline Woodson

Imprint: Nancy Paulsen Books

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

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ISBN: 9780399252525 and 9780525515142

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 10 and Up

Grade Range:

(Recommended by School Library Journal)

BOOK RESUME: HARBOR ME

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Jacqueline Woodson's first middle-grade novel since National Book Award winner *Brown Girl Dreaming* celebrates the healing that can occur when a group of students share their stories.

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for “A Room to Talk”), they discover it’s safe to talk about what’s bothering them—everything from Esteban’s father’s deportation and Haley’s father’s incarceration to Amari’s fears of racial profiling and Ashton’s adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“Woodson’s skills as poet and master storyteller shine brightly here as she economically uses language to express emotion and delve into the hearts of her characters. Showing how America’s political and social issues affect children on a daily basis, this novel will leave an indelible mark on readers’ minds.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★“Woodson delivers a powerful tale of community and mutual growth. The bond they develop is palpable. . . . The characters ring true as they discuss issues both personal and global. This story, told with exquisite language and clarity of narrative, is both heartbreaking and hopeful. An extraordinary and timely piece of writing.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★“The magic is in the writing. Woodson tells stories torn from headlines but personalizes them with poetry and memories, blunting their trauma with understanding and love. Haley’s history weaves in and out, drawing readers close. These children become each other’s safe harbors and Woodson brilliantly shows readers how to find the connections we all need.”—*Booklist*, starred review

★“Woodson’s spare, lyrical, and evocative prose carries the story seamlessly, weaving in themes of justice and family, friendship and courage. This is a timely and beautifully written story that should be on library shelves everywhere.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

Updated 3.28.2024

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

★"A powerful love letter to effective teachers, unexpected friendship and the healing magic of hearing, recording and sharing words."—*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

"Captivating." — *The New York Times Book Review*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection
- A Georgia Children's Book Award selection
- A Michigan Great Lakes, Great Books selection
- A Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award selection
- A Texas Bluebonnet Award selection
- A Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fischer Book Award selection
- A Nevada Young Readers Award selection
- A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award selection
- A Michigan YouPer Award selection
- An Ohioana Book Award selection
- A Wisconsin Just One More Page! Selection
- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Book Award selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Children's Book Award selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award selection
- An Iowa Children's Choice Award selection
- A South Carolina Book Award selection
- A North Carolina Book Award selection
- A Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices selection
- A ILA Teachers' Choices Reading List
- A *TIME* Best Book selection
- A *Washington Post* Best Book selection
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book selection
- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [A Guide to the Works of Jacqueline Woodson](#)
- [Rethinking Schools, Mirrors and Windows: Conversations with Jacqueline Woodson](#)
- [Harpers Bazaar: Eight Authors on How it Feels to Have Their Books Banned](#)

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