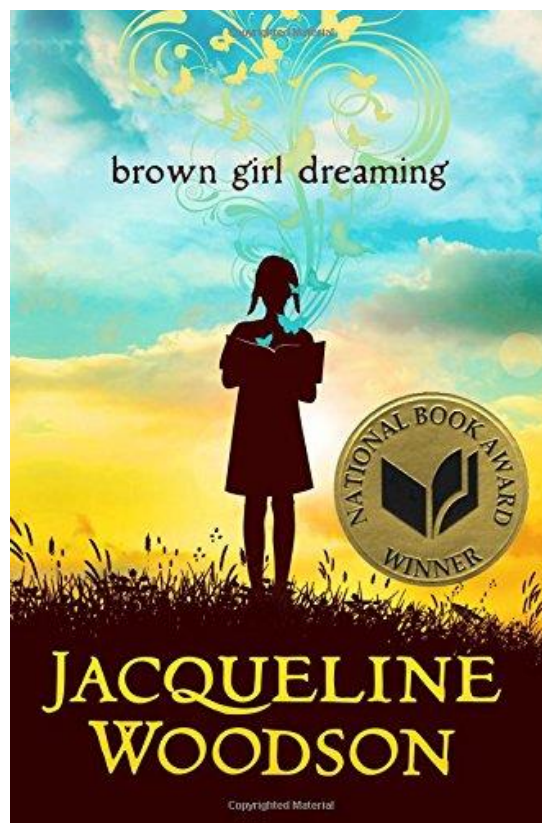


Children and Young Adult Book Review
Middle School
brown girl dreaming

Educator Reviewers: Jacqueline Martinez and Helene Halstead
Student Reviewer: Ashley Doss



Woodson, J. (2014). *brown girl dreaming*. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books.

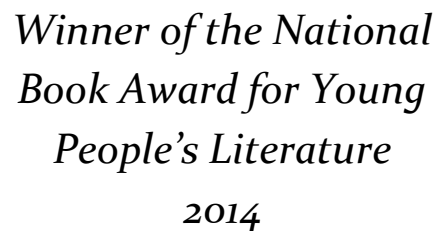
Educator Review:

brown girl dreaming is one of Woodson's (2014) finest novels. Written in lyrical prose, Woodson describes her own life growing up in both the North and the South during the changing country in midst of the Civil Rights Movement. Woodson's word choice is careful and deliberate; she is able to convey vivid details about family, education and her growing understanding of racism as a young child. By the end of the story, you will be amazed that you have learned not only about Woodson's personal experiences, but also about the climate of America during Woodson's family's history through the 1970s.

William Woodson
the only brown boy in an all-white school

*You'll face this in your life someday
my mother will tell us
over and over again.
A moment when you walk into a room and
no one there is like you.*

*It'll be scary sometimes. But think of William Woodson
and you'll be all right. (Woodson, 2014, p. 9)*



*Winner of the National
Book Award for Young
People's Literature
2014*

This book is a perfect fit for students who enjoy poetry, history, and personal narratives. While this novel is well suited for upper elementary and middle school students, high school students and adults will also devour the beautiful words on each page. *brown girl dreaming* is also a strong fit for the classroom. The poems can be read independently of each other, by chapter or the entire book can be read fairly quickly. Although a hefty 336 pages, each page contains approximately the amount of words in a general paragraph, and students may feel a sense of accomplishment when they complete the story. In addition, this novel can be coupled with social studies classes in order to discuss historical references or the many different cultures Woodson so beautifully describes

Jacqueline Martinez
Athens Technical College, Athens, GA

Helene Halstead
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Student Review:

brown girl dreaming is about a young girl's childhood and about the Civil Rights Movement. It shows how the Woodson family grew up. It shows how history was made.

This book is a great and big deal. It shows a lot of personal and important history. One part of history that was great was that Martin Luther King Jr. was a part of it. On page 441, it also tells how Brooklyn, New York was a part of Jacqueline's family's history. *brown girl dreaming* is one of the best books to read. It tells history behind a history.

What I liked best about this particular book is that it made sense. It explains how the North and the South got into a big fight about racism and the importance and value of family. The author writes her life in poems. Her life is so sad and sobering. During hard times she was tough with her family and stuck by her family's side.

I would recommend this book because it tells about a history that extraordinary. Sixth graders and up can read this book. I am pretty sure that they will love it and could write a great paper that everyone would love.

Dasani Baker
Burney Harris Lyons Middle School, Athens, GA
6th Grade