

Juvenile Book Discussion Kits

Juvenile Book Discussion Kits are available to library patrons for use by home and community discussion groups, as well as teachers in the classroom setting. Each kit contains a set of thirty identical soft-cover books accompanied by a book discussion guide. The guides feature information about the author, reviews of the book, discussion questions, suggested further readings, and other pertinent information. Each kit is packaged in a canvas tote bag and may be borrowed for six weeks.

Juvenile Book Discussion Kits may be reserved and sent to the library branch of your choice for pick up. If you would like to reserve a kit, please stop by your local library branch or call **574-1611**. The kits may also be reserved through our website www.lfpl.org. A list of all the kits may be found in the LFPL catalog by typing **Book Discussion Kit Juvenile** at the title prompt.

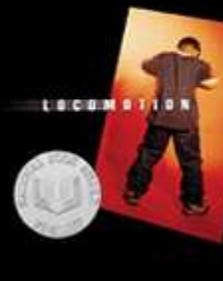


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Information for this flyer was partially gathered from the following resources:

"Jacqueline Woodson." *Contemporary Authors Online*. Gale Research, 2006. Retrieved June 19, 2007: www.galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/LitRC

Jacqueline Woodson
A 2006 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER



A Reader's Guide to
Juvenile Book
Discussion Kit
Locomotion
By Jacqueline
Woodson

Xtreme Reads
Xtreme Reads
Xtreme Reads
Xtreme Reads
Xtreme Reads

**Young Adult Book
Discussion Kits**



You don't just get to write a poem once / You gotta write it over and over and over / Until it feels real good to you

Lonnie's had a rough life for an 11 year old. Four years ago, his parents died in a fire. Then his sister was adopted by a family while Lonnie remained in foster care. Lonnie has a hard time expressing his feelings. It is hard for him sometimes to simply say what is on his mind. His teacher, Ms. Marcus, comes up with a plan. She suggests that Lonnie write his thoughts in poetry. All forms of poetry—haiku, sonnets, free verse. At first he hates it, but as he writes on and on he finds poetry a great way to find out who he is.

About the Author

Award winning author Jacqueline Woodson is equally proficient in the novel format, verse, and picture books. She writes about "invisible" people: young girls, minorities, the poor, foster kids, all the individuals who are ignored or forgotten in main stream America. As a black woman, Woodson knows firsthand what it is like to be labeled, classified, stereotyped and pushed aside. However, her stories are not intended to champion the rights of minorities or the oppressed. They celebrate people's differences. Her characters are struggling to find their own individuality.

Woodson's sense of not belonging to one community is grounded in her childhood. During her teen years, she moved back and forth between South Carolina and New York City. She never felt quite a part of either place. At a young age, she learned that writing helped her to sort out her feelings and find her identity. "I used to write on everything," she says. "It was the thing I liked to do the most. I never thought I could have a career as a writer—I always thought it was something I would have to do on the side." Her seventh-grade English teacher encouraged Woodson to write and convinced her that she should pursue whatever career she felt would make her happy. Woodson has never backed away from portraying truths about life in modern American society.

What the Critics Say...

"A masterful use of voice."

—*School Library Journal*

"From rap to haiku, Woodson shows and tells that poetry is about who we are."

—*Booklist*

"Woodson creates a contagious appreciation for poetry while using the genre as a cathartic means for expressing the young poet's own grief."

—*Publishers Weekly*

Awards and Recognition

National Book Award finalist

Coretta Scott King Honor book

Boston Globe-Horn Book Award nominee in fiction and poetry

IRA-CBC Children's Choice selection

Best Book Citation—*School Library Journal*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Lonnie is upset when the family who adopts his sister doesn't want to adopt him. He says people don't want to adopt boys unless they are babies. Do you think this is true? Why do you think people would prefer girls or babies over older boys?
- 2) Lonnie longs to have a family. What makes a family? Are Lonnie and his foster mother, Ms. Edna, a family? Why or why not?
- 3) *Locomotion* is called a novel in verse and is made of 60 poems. What makes a poem? Does a poem need to rhyme? What are the different forms of poems found in *Locomotion*?
- 4) Lonnie Collins Motion's mother gave him the nickname Locomotion, based on her favorite song. Do you or anyone in your family have a nickname? Where did that name come from?
- 5) Lonnie learns a lot from his teacher, Ms. Marcus, because she takes a special interest in him. Is there a special adult in your life (other than a parent) who has made a difference in your life? How so? What things have they done to encourage you or help you out?

Suggested Titles for Further Reading

The Pinballs

by Betsy Byars (J)

Love That Dog

by Sharon Creech (J)

Pictures of Hollis Woods

by Patricia Reilly Giff (J)

Gossamer

by Lois Lowry (J)

The Great Gilly Hopkins

by Katherine Paterson (J)

A Light in the Attic

by Shel Silverstein (811.54 S1391)

Summerhouse Time

by Eileen Spinelli (J)

A Child's Garden of Verses

by Robert Louis Stevenson (822 S848, 1905)

Let's Talk about Foster Care

by Elizabeth Weitzman (362.733 WEI)

Last Summer with Maizon

by Jacqueline Woodson (J)

Reaching for Sun

by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer (J)