

Name: _____

Date: _____

Brown Girl Dreaming (8-16) "the woodsons of ohio"

Lesson Objective: Consider the importance of the Woodson family's history.

Do Now

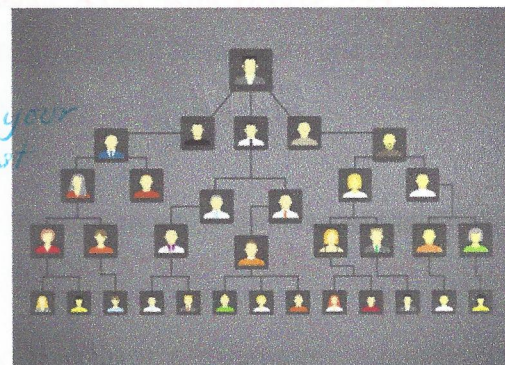
5-6 mins Silent Solo

Directions: Read the text below, then turn to the family tree in the introductory pages of *brown girl dreaming* and answer the following questions.

Family Trees

A family tree is a chart that represents family relationships across multiple generations. Usually, the oldest generations are at the top and the newer generations are at the bottom. A tree might show a person's ancestry, demonstrate how families have evolved through marriage, or outline the descendants of a particular figure.

In the family tree in *brown girl dreaming*, the interlocking circles indicate a connection through marriage. The years below each person's name indicate their birth and, when applicable, their death.



1. Find Jaqueline Amanda Woodson's name on the family tree, then follow the line up one generation. How are Jack Austin Woodson and Mary Ann Irby connected to each other?

Cold Call

married ∞

Ask: How do you know?

2. How many children did Gunnar Irby and Georgiana Scott Irby have?

Share out

4

Cold Call: Who is their oldest child? Who are their other children?

3. Which of Jaqueline Woodson's parents was still alive when this book was published, her mother or her father? How do you know?

Cold Call

father - mother died in 2008

4. What are the names of Jaqueline Woodson's grandparents on her father's side?

Cold Call

Hope Austin Woodson, Grace Vivian Whitfield Woodson

If time: How many marriages are represented on this family tree?
Who is Woodson's oldest ancestor?
How many aunts + uncles does Woodson have?
Does Woodson have any younger siblings?

Retrieval Practice *Try these on your own, but use KO if you get stuck!*

Use the word or phrase from the Knowledge Organizer in your response.

1. What is ancestry? *line of ppl in a family's past*
Share out, then CC

share out: Define hereditary. Then T+T, 2 cold calls

2. What is a trait that might be hereditary?

passing personal characteristics from one generation to another
(brown eyes, hair color, skin tone)

Cold Call

3. Who was born in 1963?

JW

30 sec Silent Solo, then Cold Call

4. Name the movement happening in America in the 1960s in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader.

Civil Rights Movement. (March on Wash = one event in larger movement)

T+T

5. What term refers to an account of a person or family's descent from past generations?

then Cold Call → define genealogy

genealogy

6. What is a memoir? *- collection of memories written about*

Share out 2x

impt. moments events in person's life

If time: w/o your KO, who can define:

ancestry?

hereditary?

memoir?

Self-Score _____/6

Pages 8-9: "the woodsons of ohio"

1. Turn and Talk: This poem is called "the woodsons of ohio." Given Jaqueline Woodson's family tree, who is this poem likely to focus on? *her father's side of the family*

Annotation Task: As we read the poem, annotate any lines that help us understand the story of the Woodson family. How do they see themselves? *- successful, w/ pride in story & accomplishments*

my father's family / can trace their history Notes

the Woodsons of Ohio know ... in stories

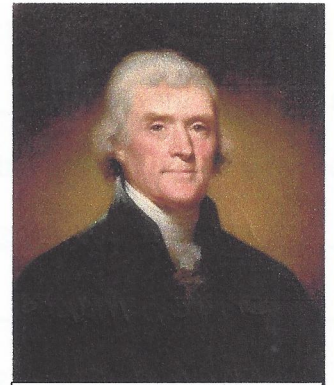
ask any Woodson why ... drs and lawyers and teachers / athletes and scholars and ppl in gov't

we had a head start ... expected the best of us

long, long story

Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings

Thomas Jefferson was one of the American Founding Fathers, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, and the third president of the United States. He also enslaved over 600 people throughout the course of his life, including a woman named Sally Hemings. Jefferson is believed to have had a long-term relationship with Hemings after the death of his wife, and historians largely agree that Jefferson was the father of Hemings's six children. The children, who lived in Jefferson's house as slaves, were eventually freed by Jefferson; they were the only enslaved family he freed. While Jefferson's relationship with Hemings has been the subject of historical debate, a DNA study in 1998 confirmed a match between the descendants of Jefferson and Hemings, and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation now calls Jefferson's fatherhood "a settled issue."



Thomas Jefferson



2. Reread these lines from p. 8:

My father's family
can trace their history back
to Thomas Woodson of Chillicothe, said to be
the first son
of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings

Why might this ancestry be important to Woodson's father's family?

TJ = important historical figure - could be proud to have famous ancestor

Also, TJ freed ^{Hemings's} children - unusual to have a free ancestor in Am. at this time

Supporting Qs:

- What is ancestry? use K.O. if necessary*
- Why might it be significant to have ~~that~~ Thomas Woodson of Chillicothe as an ancestor?*
- Why might it be imp. to have Thomas Jeff. as an ancestor?*



T+T- define legacy.

3. Turn and Task: Based on the information in this poem, how would you describe "the Woodson line"? What kind of **legacy** did Thomas Woodson seem to leave? Jot your thoughts in the box.

successful, accomplished, impt. careers Notes "doctors lawyers teachers athletes scholars ppl in govt"
legacy = high expectations, pride in hard work + achievements

4. Reread these lines from p. 9:

They'll lean back, lace their fingers
Across their chests,
Smile a smile that's older than time, say

Well it all started back before Thomas Jefferson
Woodson of Chillicothe...

and they'll begin to tell our long, long story.

- a. Who is "they"? "the Woodson's of Ohio" or Jakob Woodson's (JW's father's) ancestors

- b. Why do you think Woodson refers to them as a group? What might this suggest?

All the Woodson family feels/believes/acts similarly. This is a family pride, makes them all feel dignified by their past, their ancestry, their shared stories.

Pages 10-12: "the ghosts of the nelsonville house"

Annotation Task: As we read this poem, underline any words or phrases that are direct commands or requests (e.g., "Sit down"). *Look up; Keep looking; wait! Look closely (2x)*

5. Turn and Talk: Who is Woodson making requests to? What is she requesting? *us/her readers → to look closely / consider the Woodson house / ancestry / history*

Notes

6. Reread these lines from p. 12:

Look closely. There I am
in the furrow of Jack's brow,
in the slyness of Alicia's smile,
in the bend of Grace's hand...

There I am...

Beginning.

a. What does Woodson mean when she says, "There I am"? Include a form of the word **heredity** in your response. **Challenge:** Begin your response with the phrase, "As Woodson looks..."

As Woodson looks at her father's family photographs, she sees that her traits, like her brow and smile, are hereditary and shared with other members of her family.

b. Why might Woodson have called this poem, "the ghosts of the nelsonville house"? Who do you think the ghosts are?

The ghosts are the memories / the influences of the Woodson family. Though the family members may not be physically living in that house, their presence lingers in moments / memories / photographs — and in JW's traits and characteristics.

7. Why might understanding her **genealogy** be important to Woodson? Try to think of multiple reasons, considering all the poems we've read so far.

Genealogy helps Woodson understand who she is/who she might become;
helps her feel pride in/connectedness to her family members past +
present. Helps her see that ancestry can impact legacy.

Notes

Revision Include the phrase "By understanding her genealogy..." Challenge - Include a phrase from KD - in addition to

By understanding ^{her} genealogy, Woodson can understand that her ^{to} family's past can mold or shape her future legacy. "Genealogy"

By understanding her genealogy, Woodson can also understand family traits that are heredity and that might help her decide what her legacy might be.

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Exit Ticket

1. Who are the Woodsons of Ohio? Describe them in 1-2 sentences.

The Woodsons of Ohio are JW's father's ancestors. The love to tell the stories of their achievements and successes, which follow Thomas Woodson's legacy of pride in hard work.

2. In "the ghosts of the nelsonville house," what does Woodson want us to "look closely" at, and why? Include a term from your Knowledge Organizer in your response.

JW wants us to "look closely" at the photos of her ancestors so we can learn more about the legacies that are passed on to Woodson. We can see traits that are hereditary in Woodson's family.

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Homework

Nightly Reading: Read *brown girl dreaming* pp. 13-16 ("it'll be scary sometimes" and "football dreams"). Use the nonfiction article below to add to your understanding of the reading, then answer the questions that follow.

Annotation Focus: Underline moments that help you understand William J. Woodson and Jack Woodson. Jot a margin note at the end of each poem that describes each man.

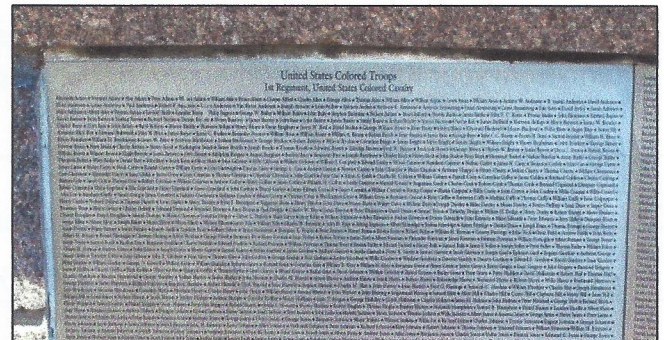
Black Soldiers in the Civil War

When the Civil War began in 1861, free Black men were prohibited from enlisting in the U.S. military because a federal law dating from 1792 prohibited Black people from joining the forces. As the war dragged on, however, the Union army needed more soldiers. An increasing number of Black people who were newly freed or escaped were eager to join the fight against the Confederacy. In 1863, after Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all enslaved people in rebellious states, the Union began to pursue recruitment of Black soldiers in earnest.

The U.S. government established the United States Colored Troops (USCT) in 1863 to organize the regiments of soldiers composed primarily of Black soldiers. By the end of the war in 1865, the USCT regiments made up about 10% of the Union Army—over 180,000 Black soldiers contributed to the war effort.

Serving in the USCT was risky and difficult; in addition to the dangers of war, Black soldiers faced additional problems stemming from racial prejudice and were not paid as much as their white counterparts. Still, Black soldiers of the Civil War fought with distinction and contributed to the Union's ultimate victory; 15 USCT soldiers received the Medal of Honor, which today is the highest military honor attainable.

The Company B 5th Regiment, in which Woodson's great-great-grandfather fought, was initially formed as the 127th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1863. The regiment fought in Virginia and North Carolina through the end of the war.



The African-American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C., includes panels inscribed with the names of the Black soldiers who served in the war.

1. Consider what you learned from the article above as well as from the poem "it'll be scary sometimes." What can you conclude about William J. Woodson's traits?

*Courageous + brave
faced fears
legacy to be proud of*

Notes

2. Jaqueline Woodson's mother says, "You'll face this in your life someday." What does she mean by "this"? Jot the lines from the poem (not your own words!) that answer this question on the lines below.

"A moment when you walk into a room and/
no one there is like you

3. Reread these lines from "football dreams" on pp. 15-16:

Interstate 77 could take you south
but my father said
no colored Buckeye in his right mind
would ever want to go there.

Why might Jack Woodson feel this way?

Jack Woodson likely holds notions of the discrimination
present in the South - he prefers the life he knows in
North (Ohio). He might not want to expose himself/ his
family to more overt racism in South.