

Name: _____

Date: _____

Do Now Quiz—Knowledge

10-12 mins
Silent Solo

1. What is a memoir? (1 point)
 - a. the way in which a person's memory or judgment is shaped by their personal opinions or experiences
 - ☒ b. a collection of memories written about important moments and events in a person's life
 - c. the degree to which a person's narration or memory is trustworthy or accurate
 - d. a fond remembering of the past, especially a longing for a time or place with happy personal memories
2. What is the term for a pattern of sound set by the syllables in lines of poetry? (1 point)
 - a. stanza
 - b. anaphora
 - c. haiku
 - ☒ d. rhythm
3. In what year was Jacqueline Woodson born? (1 point)
 - a. 1937
 - b. 1942
 - ☒ c. 1963
 - d. 1984
4. Where was Jacqueline Woodson born? (1 point)
 - ☒ a. Ohio
 - b. South Carolina
 - c. New York
 - d. Washington, D.C.

5. ☒ A What does **ancestry** mean? ☒ B Describe one thing we know about Jacqueline Woodson's **ancestry**. (2 points)

A - ancestry = line of people in a family's past

B - great-great-grandparents enslaved; father's family believes they're descended fr. Thomas Jefferson; Woodson's proud of their accomplished careers.

6. ☒ A What is the name of the struggle for social justice that occurred in America during the 1950s and 1960s? ☒ B Name one leader who was an important voice in this struggle. (2 points)

A - civil rights movement

B - MLK, Malcolm X, Ruby Bridges; Rosa Parks; James Baldwin

brown girl dreaming (17-29) "other people's memory"

Lesson Objective: Analyze Woodson's descriptions of some important family memories.

Say: Circle one of the prompts and Do Now **(6-7) Silent Solo.**

begin to draft a response on the lines

2 min if any student wants

Directions: Choose one of the following prompts and write 3-4 sentences in response. **Challenge:** Write your response as a poem. **to Share Out.**

- Have you heard any stories about the day you were born? What do your family members remember about your birth?
- Consider Woodson's reflections on the "nelsonville house." Are there any locations that are particularly important to you or your family? What do you remember or know about this place?
- Have you heard any stories about your **ancestors**, like Woodson in "the woodsons of ohio"? Who or what have you heard about?
- Recall the poem "a girl named jack" (p. 6). Do you know how your name was chosen? What is the significance or meaning of your name?

After a few Share outs, say:

You can turn this into an extra-credit proj, 2 stanza poem, finishing at home.

- 2 stanzas
- At least 1 enjambment
- At least 1 end-stopped line.

You can interview a family member for their memories of the day you were born, stories of ancestors, or origin of your name if you want to!

Pages 17-18: other people's memory

20 mins

Annotation Task: Compare the three different memories of Woodson's birth by jotting notes in the table below. What details does each person most remember? How are their memories different?

Ask →

Grandma Georgiana	mother	father
born in morning recalls birds + phone call thinks - 2 girls, close in age, like mother + aunt	born in late afternoon rushed bus ride so father (Jack) could get there - but he missed it	born near nighttime JW = unlucky bc looks like Jack/father - going to name JW after him

Annotation Task: As we read this article, annotate any lines that explain why two people might remember the same event in different ways.

Read Aloud while stu. annotate

You Remember What?: Memory and the Rashomon Effect

Imagine that you've had a huge argument with a good friend, and the next day the two of you decide to talk things over to make up. As you start to discuss the details of the fight, you realize that even though both of you were in the same conversation, you have drastically different memories of what was said. How could this be?

This is an everyday example of the *Rashomon* effect, a ^{remarkable situation} phenomenon where different people recall contradictory accounts of the same event. The effect is named after a 1950 film, *Rashomon*, in which four characters have conflicting reports of the events surrounding a murder. Rather than revealing which character's memory is correct, the film suggests that they all have some truth to them, even though they are so widely different.

There are many reasons why people might have conflicting memories of the same event. Human memory is unreliable; many studies have shown that it's easy for people to develop false memories and that memories change over time. Every time you try to remember something, you rewrite it in your brain. If your recollection contains errors, you strengthen those errors over time until you become positive they're correct.

Signy Sheldon, a psychologist who studies memory at McGill University in Canada, has found that there are strong differences in people's brains that impact the way in which they store and retrieve memories. Beyond these brain differences, people's emotions can also influence their memories. "Emotional events can be recalled much more naturally, almost like they are stamped in our minds," says Sheldon. We more easily remember things that matter to us and that we consider useful or important. Our subjectivity also influences our recollections; for example, a study showed that sports fans tended to remember examples of their ^{memories} opponents playing rough more easily than they recalled rough play instigated by their own side. ^{KO Cold Call di}

contradictory: seeming to be opposite

1 min Silent Solo - Cold Call to review

1. Which of the following scenarios is the best example of the Rashomon effect?

- Two people are eating a pizza. One person says it's delicious, the other person says it's disgusting.
- Two people have committed a crime. They pretend they can't remember what happened in order to avoid punishment.
- Two people witness a car crash. One person remembers the car honking its horn, but the other person says the car didn't honk.
- Two people go to a concert. One person can't remember the lyrics to the first song that the band plays, but the other person can.

b. **Turn and Talk:** How might the Rashomon effect help explain the conflicting memories of Woodson's birth?

Memory is subjective, unreliable + rewritten over time; emotional impact of memory

2. Recall that *brown girl dreaming* is a memoir. Why might the reliability of memory be important for Woodson to consider or explore in her poems?

YKO - Cold call for def.

Jot 1-2 responses, then Share Out.

- her memories in the poems might be unreliable
- her knowledge of earlier events in her life (and stories of her ancestors) rely on memories of others
- both her memories and others' are subjective

Notes

On Your Own: Pages 19-20: "no returns" and "how to listen #1" * *Remind stu. to use K.O for Q 4!*

3. Complete each of the following sentences after reading "no returns":

*Select
Solo*

- Woodson's older brother wants to return her because they already have a girl in the family / he already has a sister.

*Show
Call
1-2*

stu. work

- Woodson's older brother wants to return her, but it's impossible / babies can't be returned

- Woodson's older brother wants to return her, so he says "Take her back."

4. a. Read "how to listen #1" and count the number of syllables in each line. Jot a margin note. ** circulate - pause to count out syllables together if stu. are having trouble* 5/7/5

b. *Share out* Review the poetic terms on your Knowledge Organizer. Based on the pattern of syllables you noticed, what kind of poem is this?

haiku

c. *Share out* How is this different from the other poems we have read in *brown girl dreaming* so far? Try to include at least one term from your Knowledge Organizer in your response.

This poem follows the poetic form of a haiku, with a 5-7-5 syllable structure. Other poems are free verse and don't follow that specific, set structure.

Annotation Task: While reading, annotate lines that help answer these questions:

- Who is Uncle Odell?
- What happens to him?



5. a. **Turn and Talk:** What is Woodson imagining? Why? *Imagining her mother's actions when she gets the phone call about Odell's death. maybe mother too sad to share details - maybe JW is trying to reconstruct even that are impt. in her life, even if s. wasn't present for them*
- b. **Anaphora** refers to the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of lines or stanzas. Consider the anaphora in the following lines:

- maybe my mother was out hanging laundry
- Maybe the car was packed and ready for the drive
- Maybe right before the phone rang, tomorrow was just another day.

Silent Solo

What might Woodson's use of anaphora emphasize? *Many different possibilities, scope of what could have happened*

Share out 1-2 responses

Notes

6. Reread the final lines of the poem on p. 22:

a new pain where once there wasn't pain
a hollowness where only minutes before
she had been whole.

Silent Solo

What theme or big idea might Woodson be trying to convey here? Use the phrase, "in an instant" in your response.

In an instant, life can change. People's days can change in an instant

Share out / Show call - Look for comma usage - if starting w/ phrase

"in an instant." Show that no comma is necessary if phrase occurs at end of sent.

Pages 23-24: "good news"

Annotation Task: While reading, annotate lines that help answer these questions:

- What is the "good news"? - Odella (JW's big sister = born)
- Who receives this news? - JW's grandmother - her mother's mother.



7. Reread these lines from p. 23:

In South Carolina, the phone rings.

As my mother's mother moves toward it,
she closes her eyes,
then opens them to look out over her yard.
As she reaches for it,
she watches the way the light slips through
the heavy pine needles, dapples everything
with sweet September light...

Her hand on the phone now, she lifts it
praying silently
for the good news

Supporting Qs:

JW's grandmother. How is she related to Uncle Odell?

What might this phone call remind her of?

Why might she close her eyes?

Why might she look out at her yard before answering?

- 30 sec. to think/jot, then T+Talk. Brief discussion for more developed responses
- a. Why do you think Woodson's "mother's mother" waits a moment before answering the phone?

JW's grandmother might be so unhappy about Uncle Odell's death that everytime the phone rings, she pauses - recalling that terrible phone call that changed her life. She "closes her eyes" - maybe saying a brief prayer that this phone call ≠ bad news.

- could call for def
- b. Consider some of the punctuation choices in this excerpt. Why might the first line of the excerpt above be end-stopped? Why might Woodson have used an ellipsis when she did?

2 min Silent Solo, then brief discussion

Notes

End-stopped = final - important - a fact

ellipses - continue - let the moment last a bit, in case this phone call/the reality it brings is about to change her life again.

8. a. **Turn and Task:** How are the poems "uncle odell" and "good news" similar? How are they different?

Similar	Different
both phone calls both important news both related to family both change things in family both have to be imagined/told to JW as she wasn't yet born	sad news vs happy news death + birth grandmother calls mother ("uncle odell") mother calls grandmother ("good news")

- b. Why do you think Woodson put "uncle odell" and "good news" right next to each other in the book? What theme or big idea might these poems reinforce? **Select Solo, then discuss.**

Life is always changing, sometimes in sad + tragic ways, sometimes in uplifting, positive ways. Memories/stories of a family's history can continue to impact all people in a family - even those who aren't yet born/are too young to have ^{lived through} the memories.

Supporting Qs: Why might JW put these stories in her memoir, if she wasn't yet born when they happened? What do they show about life? about families?

If time, jot - otherwise Turn and Talk. Then discuss responses

- c. **Challenge:** In "good news," Woodson describes the arrival of the "sweet chill of autumn." How might the changing of the seasons connect to the themes of these two poems?

Seasons always change, and nothing we do can stop seasons from changing. Similarly, families live through changes, and often no one can control those changes either.

Exit Ticket

1. Complete the following sentence: *7-8 mins. Silent Solo.*

Human memory is unreliable, so people can have different—even conflicting memories of the same event. We rely on other people's memories to supplement our own.

2. Choose and describe one moment from today's reading in which the structure or technique of a poem connects to the memory it describes.

"Other people's memory" - each section begins w/ time of day JW was born - but each time of day = different, highlighting different ppl's memories.

"Uncle Odell" - repetition of "maybe" shows how JW is recreating the day without being there - memory might be too painful for mother to share real story.

"Good news" - ellipses shows grandmother trying to extend the moment before she answers the phone - in case phone call brings unwelcome news as her memory of Odell's death (as she might have received the news herself)

If time, Share out / show call 1-2 responses to Q2.

Homework

Directions: Read *brown girl dreaming* pp. 25-29 ("my mother and grace," "each winter," and "journey").

Annotation Task: Underline moments of contrast or difference among the people in these poems.

1. Where do the people in these poems feel most at home? Where do they feel far from home? Why?

JW's mother and her mother-in-law (Grace) feel at home in the South and far from home in Ohio. They both have fond memories of Greenville and Southern warmth, ways of speech, quiet.

2. Reread these lines from "my mother and grace" on p. 26:

But both of them know
the hole that is the missing isn't filled now.
Uhhh, my mother says.
Bless the dead and the living, Grace says.
Then more silence
both of them knowing
there's nothing left to say.

Who is Grace referring to when she says, "Bless the dead and the living"? (Hint: There are two people!)

"the dead:" uncle Odell (JW's mother's brother)

"the living:" Odella (JW's mother's daughter)

3. Reread these lines from "each winter" on p. 27:

[...] Always
there is a fight before she leaves.

Explain the disagreement between Woodson's mother and father.

JW's mother wants to take her children down South to visit her family/her birthplace. JW's father doesn't want to leave Ohio - doesn't like to go down south.