

THE OTHER SIDE

THE LION AND THE MOUSE

by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Ages: 5 - 9; Grades: K - 4

Themes: African-American History, Tolerance and Respect, Friendship, Families

Running Time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY

This movie, with poetic and realistic dialogue, tells the story of an unlikely but powerful friendship. Although Clover and Annie live in the same town, their homes and lives are separated by a big fence – black people on one side, white people on the other. Clover's mother tells her “that's the way things have always been.” Although Clover and Annie have both been warned never to climb over the fence, no one has ever said anything about sitting on top of the fence. It is here that their friendship blooms and they are able to imagine a world without fences and boundaries.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify the qualities of friendship.
- Students will build background knowledge about U.S. society during the time of segregation.
- Students will compare and contrast the past with today.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Use a KWL chart to elicit background knowledge (a three-columned chart: What I Know, What I Want to Know, What I Learned). Allow students to brainstorm what they know about the time in United States history when people were segregated by skin color. Record this information in the What I Know column of the KWL chart. Next, have students generate a list of questions or curiosities of what they want to know. Record these ideas in the next column. Tell students that they are about to watch a movie about a time in the United States when people with different skin colors did not live or play together.

Encourage students to watch and listen for ways that the girls' friendship in the movie is similar to friendships today, and ways that it is different. Revisit the KWL chart after viewing the movie to fill in the What I Learned column.

Discuss friendship with the students. Ask students if they have ever had a friend who was different from them or their other friends. Have students share their experiences with a partner. After sharing, have each partner share the story told to him/her by the other student. Tell students that they are going to see a movie about two girls who overcome challenges and differences to be friends with each other.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Revisit the KWL chart. Students should independently make a list of what they learned from the movie. Then, have students share what they learned and record it on the KWL chart. After recording what students have learned, use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the setting of the movie with the present. Guiding questions:

- How was the setting of this movie different from today? How was it similar?
- What obstacles or challenges did Clover and Annie need to overcome to become friends? Do you face those same types of challenges today? What different challenges do you face?
- How is Clover and Annie's friendship similar to friendships that you have? How is it different?

Have students collect photographs or draw pictures of themselves and a special friend. Model using pictures of yourself and a friend of yours to brainstorm lists about the ways that you and your friend are the same and different. Then, have students do the same activity with your guidance. Have them put together collages with their photographs, pictures and lists, and display in the classroom.

Read aloud other books that address issues of black history. Guide students to make text-to-text connections with *The Other Side*. Suggested texts: *White Socks Only*, *Night Golf*, *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, *Grandmama's Pride*, and *Freedom Summer*. Guiding questions:

- How was the world different in these books than it is today? How is it similar?
- How are the characters in these books similar? How are they different?
- What challenges did the characters have to overcome? Were their solutions similar or different?

As an extension, revisit the KWL chart and record any new ideas or facts that students learned from these books.

OTHER RELATED TITLES FROM WESTON WOODS:

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad, by Ellen Levine, ill. by Kadir Nelson

Jazztime, by Michael Sporn

John Henry, by Julius Lester, ill. by Jerry Pinkney

Lincoln and Douglass: An American Friendship, by Nikki Giovanni ill. by Bryan Collier

March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World, by Dr. Christine King Farris, ill. by London Ladd

Martin's Big Words, by Doreen Rappaport, ill. by Bryan Collier

Rosa, by Nikki Giovanni, ill. by Bryan Collier