

### ***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson**

Written in free verse, Jacqueline Woodson's memoir of her childhood is an absolutely captivating read. The poems follow her from her birth in Ohio, to living with her grandparents in South Carolina, to moving with her mother to Brooklyn. Woodson grew up during the tumultuous years of the Civil Rights Movement, which influenced her writing and shaped her worldview. *Brown Girl Dreaming* is a story of that time in history, but more importantly a story of her history, her family, and what home means to her.

Woodson's book has stuck with me since I read it for a college course a few years ago. I was hesitant to read it because I am not generally one to read poetry. But it is so lyrical and the subject matter so fascinating, that it made me forget I was even reading poems. She writes with such vivid imagery, that you as the reader feel like you're experiencing everything, the good and the bad, alongside her. The family meals and the bus rides feel so familiar, even though I grew up in a completely different decade. Woodson's brilliant way with words makes the poetry more accessible, while her childhood memories are so relatable and bring a more personal element to the Civil Rights Movement. It's no wonder that the memoir is a National Book Award Winner, a Coretta Scott King Book Award Winner, and a Newbery Honor Book. It is one that I highly recommend for both kids and adults.

Gennifer King