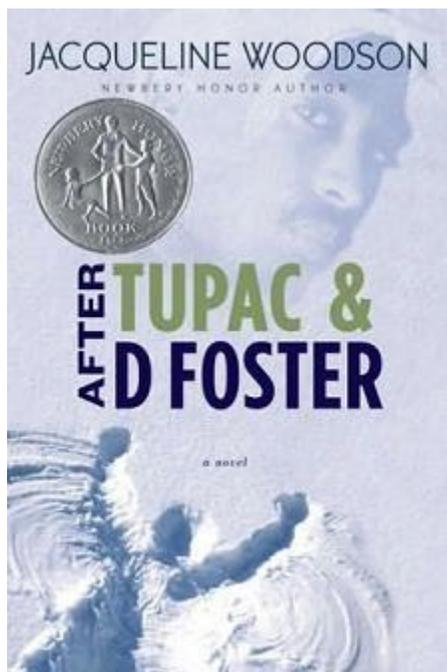


After Tupac & D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit



About the Book

The day D Foster, an eleven-year-old who has seen lots of foster homes, enters the lives of Neeka and her best friend, the world opens up for them. D comes from a world vastly different from their safe Queens neighborhood, and through her, the girls see another side of life that includes loss, foster families, and an amount of freedom that makes the girls envious.

However, the three soon realize they have a lot in common – including their love of Tupac – his lyrics, his life, and the way he keeps on keeping on. This helps them move through the years between 11 and 13 in search of their Big Purpose even as the narrator's brother is wrongly accused of a crime and gets sent to jail. In addition, D's

absent mom keeps disappointing her. Although all of them are crazy about Tupac Shakur's rap music, D is the one who truly understands the place where he's coming from. Through knowing D, Tupac's lyrics become more personal for all of them.

The girls are thirteen when D's mom swoops in to reclaim D—and as magically as she appeared, she now disappears from their lives. Tupac is gone, too, after another shooting; this time fatal. As the narrator looks back, she sees lives suspended in time, and realizes that even all-too-brief connections can touch deeply.



About the Author

Jacqueline Woodson was born in Columbus and grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, and Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from college with a B.A. in English. She now writes full-time and has recently received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults. Her other awards include a Newbery Honor, two Coretta Scott King awards, two National Book Award finalists, and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Although she spends most of her time writing, Woodson also enjoys reading the works of emerging writers and encouraging young people to write, spending time with her friends and her family, and sewing. Jacqueline Woodson currently resides in Brooklyn.

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Author Resources

Jacqueline Woodson's Official Website

<http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com/>

Meet the Author: Jacqueline Woodson

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/tnc/mtai/woodson.html>

from Houghton Mifflin Reading

Book Links interview with Jacqueline Woodson

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/ckbookawards/docs/booklinks-200805-JW.pdf>

Reading Rockets Video Interview with Jacqueline Woodson

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/woodson>

Biography of Jacqueline Woodson from Scholastic

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=3590>



Discussion Questions

1. Neeka and her best friend live in a safe neighborhood. Why did D roam into the neighborhood?
2. What do you learn about the main characters in the book? Describe one of them and the realities of her life. Compare them to your own. How would you cope under her extraordinary circumstances?
3. Neeka's family is a church-going family. How does this experience influence the family in times of difficulty?
4. Neeka's brother is unjustly charged with a crime. What advice would you give to a teen to assist him or her in difficult times such as this?
5. Describe Neeka's relationship with her mother. Compare her treatment by her mother with that of D and her mother.
6. What impact did Tupac have on the lives of the three girls?
7. The two girls don't know much about D besides what she tells them. How much do you know about your friends?

Find more discussion questions in Penguin Books' *discussion guide for **After Tupac & D Foster***: http://us.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/Tupac_Guide.pdf



Extension Projects

Language Arts and Social Studies

Research the life of Tupac Shakur. Write a brief biography of the rapper. Explore Tupac's life and poetry. Other issues to explore might be gender issues, friendship and loss, or family issues.

History

Although the protagonists are only 13 years old, this book deals with issues that are relevant to teens. Learn more about the American justice system and the treatment of African Americans. Pair this title with Walter Dean Myers' book, **Monster**.

Music and the Arts

Research rap music and in particular the music of Tupac Shakur. Write a paper or a short play utilizing what you learned.

Social Studies

Compare life in your home town and the life in Queens as it is described in the book. Learn more about the foster care system in your area. How does the foster care system affect families?

Find more extension projects in Penguin Books' *discussion guide for **After Tupac & D Foster***: http://us.penguinroup.com/static/images/yr/pdf/Tupac_Guide.pdf



Additional Resources

Penguin Books Discussion Guide for *After Tupac & D Foster*

http://us.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/Tupac_Guide.pdf

***After Tupac & D Foster* on Jacqueline Woodson's website**

<http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com/ya.shtml>

Teen Reads page on *After Tupac & D Foster*

<http://www.teenreads.com/reviews/9780399246548.asp>

Includes an excerpt from the book and an interview with Jacqueline Woodson.

Tupac Amaru Shukar Foundation

<http://www.tasf.org/>

Providing training and support for students who aspire to enhance their creative talents.

Book details:

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Putnam, 2008. Grades 7 up. ISBN-13: 978-0-399-24654-8.

About Choose to Read Ohio

Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) spotlights Ohio authors and promotes reading across Ohio. The State Library of Ohio, in partnership with Ohioana Library Association, developed this initiative to encourage Ohioans of all ages to share literature by authors native to, residing in, or associated with Ohio. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: <http://oh.webjunction.org/ohctrointro>.