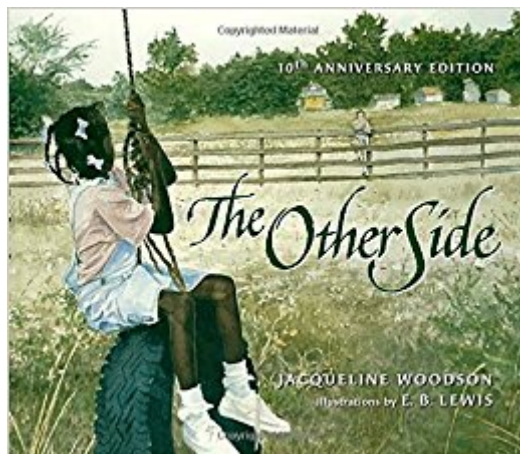


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# The Other Side



## Synopsis

Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their African-American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship, and get around the grown-ups' rules by sitting on top of the fence together. With the addition of a brand-new author's note, this special edition celebrates the tenth anniversary of this classic book. As always, Woodson moves readers with her lyrical narrative, and E. B. Lewis's amazing talent shines in his gorgeous watercolor illustrations.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD300L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (January 15, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399231161

ISBN-13: 978-0399231162

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.3 x 11.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 71 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,601 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #20 in Books >

Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #28 in Books

> Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Woodson (*If You Come Softly; I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This*) lays out her resonant story like a poem, its central metaphor a fence that divides blacks from whites. Lewis's (*My Rows and Piles of Coins*) evocative watercolors lay bare the personalities and emotions of her two young heroines, one African-American and one white. As the girls, both instructed by their mothers not to climb over the fence, watch each other from a distance, their body language and facial expressions provide clues to their ambivalence about their mothers' directives. Intrigued by her free-spirited white neighbor, narrator Clover watches enviously from her window as "that girl" plays outdoors in the rain. And after footloose Annie introduces herself, she points out to Clover that "a fence like this was

made for sitting on"; what was a barrier between the new friends' worlds becomes a peaceful perch where the two spend time together throughout the summer. By season's end, they join Clover's other pals jumping rope and, when they stop to rest, "We sat up on the fence, all of us in a long line." Lewis depicts bygone days with the girls in dresses and white sneakers and socks, and Woodson hints at a bright future with her closing lines: "Someday somebody's going to come along and knock this old fence down," says Annie, and Clover agrees. Pictures and words make strong partners here, convincingly communicating a timeless lesson. Ages 5-up. (Jan.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr 1-4-A story of friendship across a racial divide. Clover, the young African-American narrator, lives beside a fence that segregates her town. Her mother instructs her never to climb over to the other side because it isn't safe. But one summer morning, Clover notices a girl on the other side. Both children are curious about one another, and as the summer stretches on, Clover and Annie work up the nerve to introduce themselves. They dodge the injunction against crossing the fence by sitting on top of it together, and Clover pretends not to care when her friends react strangely at the sight of her sitting side by side with a white girl. Eventually, it's the fence that's out of place, not the friendship. Woodson's spare text is easy and unencumbered. In her deft care, a story that might have suffered from heavy-handed didacticism manages to plumb great depths with understated simplicity. In Lewis's accompanying watercolor illustrations, Clover and her friends pass their summer beneath a blinding sun that casts dark but shallow shadows. Text and art work together beautifully.-Catherine T. Quattlebaum, DeKalb County Public Library, Atlanta, GA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Love Love Love this endearing story. It will make you cry and smile while reading it because you can transport yourself right on those pages. Share this truth with your children. Ask them do they think how they feel and then ask yourself, have we truly overcome our own personal issue regarding race?

Gorgeous illustrations!! Wish I could frame some of them.

I used this story for a Read Aloud with my fourth grade students. I like that it is a deep subject that is handled from a child's perspective.

The book has wonderful illustrations. I love that the book teaches a powerful message taught gently through the eyes of children.

The Other Side I used this picture book to teach symbolism to my middle school students. My students connected Woodson's fence to Jerry Spinelli's Hector Street in our class novel, Maniac Magee. After an engaging reading, they concluded that both the fence and Hector Street represent that which divides us: ignorance. Picture books, especially The Other Side, are excellent tools for teaching literary elements. Most importantly, students of all ages enjoy them.

My students loved the book!

What a great story and gentle way to introduce younger children to the concept of discrimination. The images will draw kids in as they capture the essence of childhood and will help kids identify with the characters.

great book

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