



LITERATURE GUIDE

NOW Orange

Book Guide

Book Guide

AFTER TUPAC AND D FOSTER

by Jacqueline Woodson

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jacqueline Woodson was born in Columbus, Ohio, and grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, and Brooklyn, New York. She is one of the most honored writers in the world of children's literature, having won three Newbery Honors, a Coretta Scott King author award, two Coretta Scott King author honors, two National Book Award nominations, and the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in the world of young adult literature. Jacqueline currently lives in Brooklyn, New York with her family and travels widely to speak in schools and at conferences.

ABOUT THE BOOK

The unnamed narrator and her best friend, Neeka, live in a quiet and boring Queens neighborhood with strict parents who are always in their business. When new girl D Foster shows up in their lives, they are jealous of her freedom to roam the city. However, D, in turn, wishes she had a real home like theirs, not the life of a foster child that she currently leads.

D arrives a few months before rapper Tupac Shakur is shot the first time, and leaves the summer before he dies. During those years, framed by Tupac and his music, the three African American girls go from age 11 to 13, become steadfast friends, and begin to find the Big Purpose in their lives.

Reading is to
the mind what
exercise is to
the body.

Joseph Addison

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.

Groucho Marx

SETTING

A quiet neighborhood in Queens, New York City in 1995.

KEY CHARACTERS

- › Narrator: a girl living in Queens
- › Mama: the narrator's mother
- › Neeka: the narrator's best friend
- › D: a girl in foster care who befriends Neeka and the narrator
- › Miss Irene: Neeka's mom
- › Jayjones: Neeka's older brother who plays basketball
- › Tash: Neeka's oldest brother who is gay
- › Albert and Emmett: Neeka's younger twin brothers
- › Tupac Shakur: a rapper

THEMES

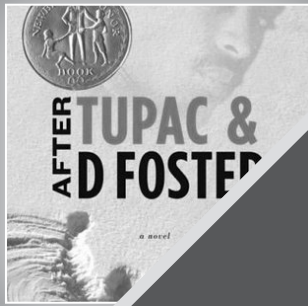
- › Music
- › Strong Women
- › Friendship
- › Growing Up
- › Families

BEYOND THE BOOK

BIG QUESTIONS

- › Why does the author never name the narrator?
- › By the end of the story, are any of the characters closer to finding their Big Purpose?
- › Explain the jump rope as a symbol in this story.
- › In your opinion, which character is most affected by the songs of Tupac Shakur and why?

NOVEL GUIDE



After Tupac & D Foster

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Prologue - Chapter 1	2
Section 2: Chapters 2-3	10
Section 3: Chapters 4-7	18
Section 4: Chapters 8-9	26
Section 5: Chapters 10-12	34
Section 6: Chapters 13-15	42
Section 7: Chapters 16-19	50
Section 8: Chapters 20-26	58
Student Response Guide	



New Book!

SUMMARY

In the prologue, the unnamed narrator describes her friendship with Neeka and their new friend D. Over the course of their friendship, the friends watch as rapper Tupac Shakur goes through experiences such as shootings and jail time. The narrator explains that her best friends Neeka and D were 12 years old and turned 13, and thinks about how times change.

In Chapter 1, the girls are eating pizza and watching videos in the summer of 1995. When a Tupac video comes on, the narrator thinks about what Tupac has done and how he feels about his mama. D says she's similar to Tupac and we learn that D lives with her foster mom, Flo. The girls later walk D to the bus stop and D sings the lyrics to a Tupac song. The three discuss the Big Purpose.

PURPOSE

To get ready to start reading a new novel.

PREPARING

- *Gather the materials.*
- *Write the Word Collection and Literature Response on chart paper.*
- *Distribute Student Response Guides and books.*

DOING

- Look at the cover and read the back of the book.
Give students a minute to read the back. Urge those who finish early to read about the author and reviews.
- What do you think this book will be about?
- Turn and talk to a partner.

TIME - 5 MIN. 

GROUPING

- Small

MATERIALS

- None



Section 1: Prologue - Chapter 1

Reading MAP [Multifaceted Activity Plan]

1 BEFORE

MOTIVATION

Think about an event in your life that caused a big change. Turn and talk to your group about it.

BRIDGE TO TEXT

In this book, a few events lead to big changes.

SET PURPOSE

While we read today, let's figure out who the main characters are, the setting, and who is telling the story.

2 DURING

PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

Character Reading

Students read aloud by taking the roles of narrator and characters.

3 AFTER

Let's explore the story more with follow-up activities.

TIME - 15 MIN. 

GROUPING

- Small

MATERIALS

- Book

WORD COLLECTION

1. revenge
2. disgrace
3. righteous
4. bootleg
5. squinted
6. lockdown
7. roaming
8. relevant


Section 1: Prologue - Chapter 1



Q10 [Comprehension Questions]

QUESTIONS

1. How does the prologue introduce the themes of the book? (pp. 1-4) *It previews the entire story and why the narrator wants to remember the time when D was around.*
2. Describe the three main characters. (pp. 4-20) *D Foster is a foster child who lives outside of the neighborhood. She has had a rough life and is private. Neeka and the narrator are best friends, have strong families, wear the same clothes, and are around age 11.*
3. Why does the narrator feel a connection with Tupac? (p. 9) *She thinks his music reflects real life feelings.*
4. What are the girls doing in the first scene? (p. 8) *Watching music videos.*
5. What is D Foster's living situation? (pp. 12-13) *She lives with her foster mom.*
6. What does D Foster hope will happen? (p. 15) *Her mama will show up and she can live with her.*
7. Who is Miss Irene? (p. 14) *Neeka's mom.*
8. How are Neeka and the narrator's lives different from D Foster's life? (pp. 16-18) *They live on a quiet safe street and have involved parents that limit their freedom. D can roam and do what she wants.*
9. What does D mean when she says she feels too free sometimes? (p. 18) *That she would like to have a parent watching over her and telling her what to do sometimes.*
10. What does D mean by "Big Purpose?" (pp. 19-20) *The thing you are supposed to do with your life.*

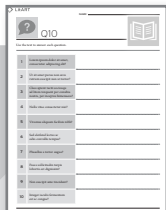
TIME - 10 MIN. 

GROUPING

- Small

MATERIALS

- None



STUDENT RESPONSE GUIDE

▶ Q10





Section 1: Prologue - Chapter 1

Word Collection

PURPOSE

To build vocabulary skills.


PREPARING

Create a word set on index cards for each small group.

DOING

- Review the words on the cards and find a word you know.
- Take a minute to think of a short performance that acts out the word.

Invite students to perform. After each performance, allow others to guess the word. Ask “Why did you guess _____? What is _____?”

TIME - 5 MIN. 

GROUPING

- Small

MATERIALS

- Index cards
- Student Response Guides
- Writing utensils

STRATEGY

- Word Performances

WORD COLLECTION LIST

1. Try to get **revenge** (p. 3)
To get even
2. Trying to be a **disgrace** (p. 3)
Something to be ashamed of
3. He got all **righteous** (p. 3)
Morally good or right
4. Watch the **bootleg** copies (p. 8)
An illegal copy
5. We all **squinted** against the brightness (p. 12)
Looked at something with your eyes partly closed
6. Until she puts you on **lockdown** (p. 16)
Confining prisoners to their cells in jail
7. **Roaming** all over the place (p. 17)
Wandering around without purpose
8. Now we're gonna get all **relevant** (p. 20)
Relating to the subject



STUDENT RESPONSE GUIDE

► WORD COLLECTION



Section 1: Prologue - Chapter 1

WERD Writing [Write. Expore. Read. Discuss.]

PURPOSE


To develop student writing ideas, strategies, and skills.

PREPARING

Write out the prompts and distribute materials.

DOING

- *Read the prompts aloud.*
- Turn to your partner and tell them what you're going to write about.
- *Provide 10 minutes to write.*
- *Facilitate sharing.*

TIME - 15 MIN. 

GROUPING

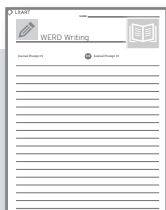
- Partners

MATERIALS

- Student Response Guides
- Writing utensils

PROMPT OPTIONS

1. My Big Purpose
2. On My Street



STUDENT RESPONSE GUIDE

► WERD WRITING



Section 1: Prologue - Chapter 1

Creative Response


Music & Words

PREPARING

Gather the materials.

DOING

- Choose a song or poem that somehow relates to the chapter.
- Play or read it for the group.
- Describe why you chose it and explain how it relates to the chapter.

TIME - 15 MIN. 

GROUPING

- Small

MATERIALS

- Music player



STUDENT RESPONSE GUIDE

► CREATIVE RESPONSE



Section 1: Prologue - Chapter 1

Literature Response

QUOTE

“Three the Hard Way.” (p. 20)

QUESTIONS

- Who said it?
- Who was it said to?
- What does it mean?
- Why was it said?

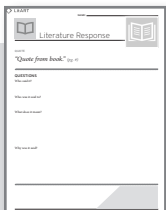
TIME - 15 MIN. 

GROUPING

- Small

MATERIALS

- Student Response Guide



STUDENT RESPONSE GUIDE

► LITERATURE RESPONSE





LitQUIZ

Section 1: Prologue - Chapter 1

Students are asked to circle the best answer to each question.

1

The narrator of the book is:

- A. D Foster
- B. Neeka
- C. Tupac
- D. Not identified

2

In the opening scene, the three girls are:

- A. watching music videos
- B. talking on the phone
- C. walking to the bus stop
- D. eating lunch at school

3

D Foster lives with:

- A. her mom
- B. her stepmom
- C. her dad
- D. foster parents

4

“Bootleg” means:

- A. to walk fast
- B. to make illegally
- C. to get dressed
- D. to dance

5

“Righteous” means:

- A. acting in a morally correct way
- B. acting in a stubbornly angry way
- C. acting in a really sad way
- D. acting in a hilariously funny way



STUDENT RESPONSE GUIDE

► LITQUIZ